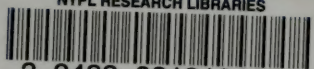


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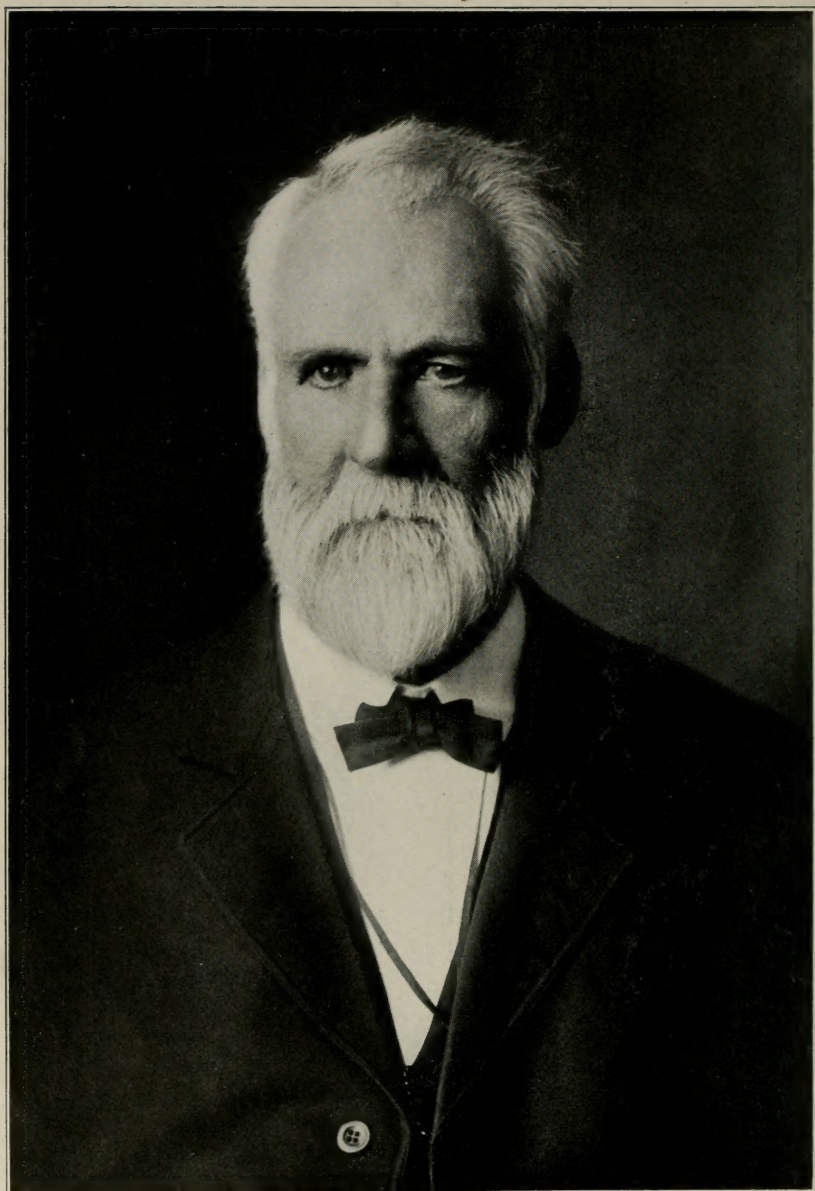
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## PREFACE

LIVING in this beautiful county, bordered by the Father of Waters, with its majestic hills, its castled rocks, its swiftly running streams, its wooded slopes, its fertile fields, its happy homes, its staid and enlightened civilization, it is difficult to realize that this is but the eightieth anniversary of the coming of the first, real American Pioneers. And yet, so young is our state, when measured by the pendulum of centuries, that Clayton is one of the very oldest counties within its borders, and its history is contemporaneous with, and typical of, the history of Iowa.

The story of these wonderful years should be a source of pride and of inspiration, and the better known the story, the more familiar the names and the deeds of the strong and sturdy men and courageous women who founded and nurtured and perfected its civilization, the stronger will be our love of home; and, in the last analysis, love of home is Patriotism.

The institutions of which the people of Clayton county are so justly proud; the well-tilled farms, the cosy, comfortable homes, the flourishing business concerns, the schools, the churches, the very roads they travel, are not the results of nature, not spontaneous growths, but each represents toil and energy and thought and sacrifice and hardship and self-control.

The pioneers were a stalwart, two-fisted, hard-headed race. They were inured to hardship; they were adventurers in the best sense of the term. They were rough and ready, quick to defend their rights, combative, turbulent, if you will, but inspired, through it all, with a splendid sense of justice and a real love of law and order which is the highest expression of Americanism.

Hardly had they set foot in this new wilderness before the rudiments of government were established and courts and schools and churches followed quickly. It is to the lasting credit of Clayton county that, throughout its history, and in spite of the presence of a bold, adventurous people and the absence of judicial machinery, it is one of the very few counties of Iowa which has never been the scene of mob violence.

While the mere struggle for existence was the first problem confronting the pioneers, it was not their ambition nor their goal, and, in a surprisingly short time, we see the evidences of the refinements of civilization, the desire for culture and the strivings of a strong intellectual, as well as of a sturdy physical life.

A large percentage of the earliest pioneers were college bred men; graduates of Yale and William and Mary's and the universities of the old world. These were men driven by the call of the West, the same call which sent their sons to California and to Pike's Peak, and their grandsons to the Dakotas and Nebraska to fill the west with the rich, red blood of Iowa.

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And, added to this tide of Americanism, there came, but a few years later, the very pick and flower of foreign immigration. Not the dregs of Europe, but the very best and strongest of its civilization. Wearied of the oppression of monarchies, eager for the wider opportunities of the newest of the new lands, from Germany and Ireland and Norway and all the countries of northern Europe, came the strongest and bravest of their peoples. This engrafting, under perfect conditions of freedom and equality, of the stability and thrift and frugality of the Old World, upon the alertness, the nervous energy and the indomitable spirit of the New, has been one of the most successful and most upbuilding processes in the evolution of mankind, and nowhere has it shown better results than in Clayton county.

Back of the pioneers we come to the mysterious, romantic shadow land of history. Across the screen are thrown dim pictures of a wild and untamed land, of herds of buffalo and droves of deer, of red-skinned warriors and rude Indian villages, of bloody massacres and dangling scalps.

Following, in rapid succession, we see the stately, saintly Fathers, soldiers of the Church, meeting the showers of savage arrows with the emblem of the Cross. Upon the broad bosom of the Mississippi we hear the lilt of French songs, as strong-backed rowers send the canoes of early explorers to marvel at the beauties of the Iowa shore.

Floating on the swift current of the Wisconsin come the Canadian voyageurs, the traders, the trappers; here, on the borders of Iowa, to meet the adventurous brother who had made the equally long and arduous journey from New Orleans, for this juncture of the rivers was the natural meeting point of the civilizations which came from the north and east and from the south.

Every wave of war which swept over Europe plashed, finally, upon the banks of the Upper Mississippi. It was here that the French made their last stand against the aggressiveness of Great Britain and sought by superior cunning to maintain commercial supremacy, even after the fortunes of war had deprived them of the great Dominion.

Even as a child might play with a diamond, unwitting of its value, so this great region became the plaything of Europe's kings, and these headwaters of the world's greatest river became the last skirmish line on which the British, the French, the Spanish and, finally, the American struggled for mastery; and thus the known history of Clayton county reaches back for more than two centuries and a half.

And, back of all this, is the unknown history of long forgotten races; a history unwritten, save in the mounds and bones found on the majestic bluffs which guard the Mississippi.

It is the purpose of this history of Clayton county, therefore, not to be a reference book, only; not a mere compilation of names and dates and statistics, however valuable and necessary these may be, but to present, to the favored sons and daughters of old Clayton, the story of their past, as an inspiration for their future, and to preserve for them a readable account of the great events, the great lives, the great struggles, the great hardships which have made possible the still greater blessings of to-day.

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## CHAPTER I

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### EARLIEST HISTORY—1673-1833

PERE MARQUETTE AND EARLY EXPLORERS—UNDER FRANCE AND SPAIN—  
FIRST AMERICANS—THE GIARD GRANT—FREEDOM OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
—LOUISIANA PURCHASE—UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES—BIRTH OF  
IOWA—INDIAN HISTORY—FUR TRADERS—INDIAN WARFARE—NEUTRAL  
GROUND—BLACKHAWK PURCHASE—SETTLEMENT OF IOWA.

WITH swift, strong paddle strokes, two heavily laden birch bark canoes glide down the broad current of the Wisconsin. It is the 17th of June, 1673. The sky is fair, the hills on either side are covered with thick woods, the grass is bright with a myriad of flowers. Day after day, the explorers had pursued the journey, led on by the vague reports of Indian warriors, of a great river, the greatest river of them all, that had its sources in the frozen northland and emptied into some unknown sea.

In the prow of the foremost of the frail craft, sits a Father of the Brotherhood of Jesus Christ. He is a young man, but frail, and, with his priestly garb, his mild and not un-Christlike face, he seems strangely out of place in this rough wilderness. The leader of the other canoe is his exact antithesis, alert, wiry, inured to hardship, versed in all the skill of woodcraft; an ill-assorted pair, perhaps, but combining just the qualities which were to give their beloved Church and their beloved France the most fertile empire the world has ever known.

Suddenly, a shout of joy and praise arises, for, before their enraptured gaze, appears the river of their quest; broader, swifter, stronger than even they in their fondest dreams had imagined; the mightiest river in the world. And as they looked over the broad expanse their eyes rested upon mile after mile of great majestic hills, rising sheer from the water's edge, with wooded slopes and crowned by sentinel rocks, towering like castles on the Rhine. Then it was, that for the first time, the eye of a white man beheld Iowa, the Beautiful Land, and, at that moment, began the known history of Iowa, and of Clayton county.

In the great river, Father Jacques Marquette and his companion, Louis Joliet, saw the fulfillment of their mission, and knew that they had opened to the world, a new and wonderful field of endeavor, but even they could not have foreseen the splendid civilization which,

to-day, has transformed this wilderness into a veritable paradise of happy homes.

Urging his boatmen, and directing their course across the more than mile-wide river, Marquette stood in the canoe, gazing upon the approaching shore, and, in mid-stream, he raised the emblem of the Cross, and gave to the river the name so near his heart, the name so often on his lips, and called it the river of the "Immaculate Conception." They disembarked on the opposite shore, a short distance below the mouth of the Wisconsin, and thus, in Clayton county, was set the first white foot that ever trod the soil of Iowa.

It is not the purpose of this work to relate the history of America, or of the United States or of the state of Iowa, except as they relate, directly, to the history of Clayton county. Nevertheless, so closely interwoven is the history of Clayton county with the history of the United States, that it will be necessary to dwell upon those facts which shall fix the relationship of the county to the nation as a whole. Again, all the changes in government, all the great events of national history, affected, intimately, the lives of the pioneers, and Clayton county's proper place in history cannot be appreciated without some knowledge of the larger events which brought it into being and controlled its destiny.

Marquette and Joliet lingered but a short time upon the shores of Clayton county. They encamped, killed game and caught fish. They climbed the rugged bluffs and saw, spread at their feet, the wonderful panorama of the Upper Mississippi. Opposite them, on the Wisconsin shore, were rolling prairies covered with tall grass that waved in the June breeze. Deer and elk were grazing on the meadow. Around about them were lofty, wooded, rocky hills and deep gorges, gay with rich foliage and flowers; chasms cut by the gushing torrents of pre-historic times. In the river were beautiful, low-lying islands, gleaming in the bright sunlight like emeralds upon the bosom of the waters. Back of them, the wavering lines of trees and bushes marked the courses of creeks and streams which cleft the billows of the broad and ocean-like expanse of prairie.

Father Marquette, speaking of this expedition of discovery, tells of the "joy which he could not express" and describes the Iowa highland as "a large chain of very high mountains."

For the purpose of this history, it is needless to follow Marquette and Joliet in their long journey which took them to the mouth of the Arkansas river and back to the Great Lakes by way of the Rock river; Marquette to remain with his beloved Indians for the short span of life remaining to him and Joliet to return to Montreal in a perilous journey, during which the priceless records of the expedition were lost.

Marquette represented the highest type of the Christian missionary and pioneer. He came with nothing but love and friendship in his heart and it is to the credit of the aborigines that they met him in the same spirit, and that, in spite of their savage state, their natural fear of these unknown whites and the bloody wars in which they were engaged among themselves, they greeted the great missionary with hospitality and warm expressions of friendship.

One can but feel that had all the white men come into the west with the same high purpose shown by Marquette, the frightful tales of bloodshed, and of massacre need never have been told. In the light of subsequent events the words of the Indian chief in welcome to Marquette are pathetic. The chief said: "How beautiful the sun is, O Frenchman, when thou comest to visit us. All our village awaits thee, and thou shalt enter all our cabins in peace. How good it is, my brothers, that you should visit us."

There is something pathetic in this welcome, when the squaws hastened to build the fires before the tepee doors, when the venison steaks were broiled, when the pipe of peace was presented, and, in the name of the Great Spirit, the chiefs welcome their white brothers to their homes. Could Manitou have told them what the future had in store, could they have foretold that their tribes were to be scattered, that their council fires were to be quenched, that the wild deer were to be driven from their hunting grounds and that, at last, they were to remain a beggarly, illkempt, despised remnant; living, without hope, upon the generosity of a conquering race, what would their reception have been?

The next traveler along the shores of Clayton county was Father Hennepin, who, under the direction of La Salle, explored the upper reaches of the "Meschasipi." The members of this expedition fell into the hands of the Indians but were ransomed by Du Lhut, the great wood ranger, and conducted, by him, back to Montreal by way of the Wisconsin river. While Father Hennepin was a great missionary, this party, under the auspices of La Salle, went largely for the purpose of exploration and for trade with the Indians. This was in the year 1680.

The vast regions of the northwest were of no value to the white man except for the rich furs obtained from the Indians in trade. This fur trade was highly profitable, great companies, backed by large capital, being formed in France, in England and later, in America.) They obtained grants and concessions which made them almost absolute monarchs of the western country. These powers, they, in turn, delegated to their representatives who sent traders and voyageurs to the very limits of the continent, into the frozen northlands, beyond the Arctic Circle, throughout all the woods of the lake region, up and down the Mississippi, across the prairie, ascending the Missouri until the Rocky mountains barred their path.

Over the red men, these traders and factors held, virtually, the power of life and death. According as they were honest or dishonest, just or unjust, scrupulous or unscrupulous, depended the Indian's fate. Nicholas Perrot was appointed "Commandant of the West" in 1685. He came to the upper Mississippi by the Wisconsin river route, established forts, opened trade with the Indians and, on May 9, 1689, took formal possession of this region in the name of the King of France. Some writers claim that he established a post on the western bank of the Mississippi, some twelve miles below the mouth of the Wisconsin river. To him, also, came reports of rich lead mines located in the Dubuque-Galena district, and it is certain that he established a post in that vicinity. These things indicate that, more than two cen-



turies ago, the Mississippi river, along the shores of Clayton county, was the great highway, a center of trade and traffic and that Indians from many leagues around glided down the waters of the Turkey and the Volga with canoes heavily laden with the rich pelts of the many wild animals with which the woods abounded.

Pierre Charles Le Sueur was another of these early adventurers. He came first to this region in 1683 and, again, in the summer of 1700. On this journey he made the voyage up the Mississippi with a felucca and two canoes manned by nineteen persons. One of the members of this party describes the voyage, and, concerning this district, he says: "We found upon the right and left mines of lead which are called to this day the mines of Nicholas Perrot, which is the name of the man who discovered them. Twenty leagues higher upon the right, we found the mouth of a big river called the Ouisconsin. Opposite its mouth there are four islands in the Mississippi and a mountain opposite to the left, very high, half a league long." The name "Perrot's Lead Mines" was applied to a large region, long after the discoverer's departure from the west, when trade was diverted southward down the Mississippi to the loss of the Canadian traders.

Another traveler in this region was Baron Lahontan. He also traveled the Wisconsin river route and the Munchausen-like account of his wonderful discoveries was a "best seller" in Europe in about the year 1700. Another interesting relic of the early days is a map of Louisiana and the course of the Mississippi, published by William De L'Isle, the French map maker, in 1703. This map indicates, by two fine parallel lines, a trader's trail, commencing at the Mississippi river, a few miles below the mouth of the Wisconsin river, and running westward across northern Iowa, through the Iowa lake district and as far, probably, as the present city of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Up to this time, the traders and explorers along the upper Mississippi had been directed from Canada, but, in 1699, Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi and became the father and the Governor of Louisiana. His kinsman, Le Sueur, was perhaps the first French voyageur to ascend the Mississippi from its mouth and, in the years that followed, a bitter trade was carried on between French traders, having St. Louis and New Orleans as their base and French traders hailing from Montreal. This situation was complicated by an uprising by the Renard, or Fox, Indians, who opposed the encroachments of the French and who, for the next fifteen years, pillaged and harassed the traders and made their business unprofitable by preventing friendly Indians from trading with them.

#### UNDER FRANCE AND SPAIN

In 1712, the French Government, finding this new world only a source of trouble, conferred on Crozat, a rich Parisian banker, the exclusive trade of Louisiana and, for five years, this territory, of which Iowa is but a portion, was under the control of one man. Crozat made some attempts at colonization, but, in 1717, he tired of his bargain and gave up the privileges conferred upon him. John Law, with the famous "Mississippi Bubble," with which he gulled the people



of France, created an era of wildest speculation and finally bankrupted a nation, was the next ruler of the Mississippi Valley. The colony then fell into the hands of the "Company of the Indies" and, in 1731, it reverted as a direct dependency to the King of France.

Louis XIV dreamed vague dreams and squandered fortunes for the establishment of a mighty empire in the western world, but he was hampered by the great and growing unrest in his own country and by continual war with other countries, so that, at one time, all the stations on the Mississippi, from the south, were abandoned and even the traders returned to their far Canadian homes, leaving this territory in the undisputed control of the Indians.

In 1727, the governor of Canada authorized Boucher to establish a trading post in southern Minnesota. Together with Fathers Michel Guignas and Nicholas de Gonnor, Boucher came, by the Wisconsin route and ascended the Mississippi and one of the expedition describes the river as flowing "between two chains of high, bare and very sterile mountains." Boucher became involved in many difficulties with the Indians. There were massacres and much fighting and, in March, 1729, the French abandoned their post and, as soon as the ice disappeared in the Mississippi, withdrew in their canoes, accompanied by seven pirogues of Kickapoos. The Foxes were at this time at war with all their neighbors and the Sac Indians were also in a desperate condition. This caused them to unite their forces and to seek refuge across the Mississippi, in this district. Their main village was at the mouth of the Papsipinicon river and they hunted through all this country.

We will not attempt to follow all the ups and downs of Indian tribal warfare. Suffice it to say that the whole country was in turmoil and the lives of French traders and the interests of France were so endangered that the Governor General sent Pierre Paul, Sieur Marin, into this country to restrain the Indians. There is reason to believe that Marin built and maintained a fort, from 1738 to 1740, below the mouth of the Wisconsin, at the head of Magill's Slough, on the Iowa bank of the Mississippi: early French settlers knew and spoke of it as Marin's Fort. Marin remained in this region, and was its virtual ruler, for a number of years. Fort Beauharnois was built in the Sioux country, was abandoned, rebuilt and finally deserted in 1756, when all French troops were needed to fight the British. By 1760 all this region had been abandoned by the French.

In 1759 the great stronghold of Quebec was captured, France was humiliated, the Canadas were lost, and it was feared that an English fleet might capture New Orleans and thus take away the last vestige of French control in America. To prevent this, Louis XV made a secret treaty with Charles III of Spain by which New Orleans and all the country west of the Mississippi were ceded to the latter government. This treaty was made in 1762, but not acknowledged until the treaty of Paris, January 1, 1763.

#### FIRST AMERICANS

It was in the last years of the French occupation, that the American colonists made their first appearance in the Mississippi Val-

ley. As early as 1760, before the appearance of British troops, English colonial traders established themselves on the Rock river and, four years later, thrifty Dutchmen, from Albany, were prospecting for trade in the Wisconsin country. Jonathan Carver, a Yankee shoemaker from Connecticut, was one of the first Americans to operate in this region. He reached Prairie du Chien in 1766, and tells of that place as a "great mart, where all the adjacent tribes, and even those who inhabit the remote branches of the Mississippi, annually assemble, about the latter end of May, bringing with them their furs to dispose of to the traders."

This brief description gives us a vivid picture of Prairie du Chien as the great trading center and one may well imagine the river dotted with Indian canoes and the smoke rising from scores of Indian wigwams on both sides of the Mississippi. Carver, indeed, saw the advantage of trade on the Iowa side and he made his residence upon the banks of the little stream which the French called "*Le Jaun Riviere*" and which Carver translated as "Yellow river." He spent two years in this vicinity and afterward published an account of his travels.

Another American trader, a Yankee, and likewise an historian, was Peter Pond. He followed the Fox-Wisconsin waterway and reached the Iowa shore in 1773.

Pond gives a picture of Prairie du Chien as a place where "the French practiced his billiards and the Indian his ball. Here the boats from New Orleans come. They are navigated by thirty-six men who row as many oars. They bring on a boat sixty hogsheads of wine on one, besides ham, cheese, etc.—all to trade with the French and Indians."

These were the years just preceding the American Revolution. The British had acquired Canada and were pushing their garrisons out to command the frontier. The Mississippi was the western boundary of their domain. The Spanish had just come into the possession of Louisiana, which included everything west of the Mississippi. The American colonists, as we have seen, were beginning to send forth adventurous spirits into the western wilds. The French still had the largest control of the commerce of the country, but had no government back of them and yielded scant loyalty either to England or to Spain. The Indians were still in their original state. They had not become so debauched by whiskey as they were at a later date. Their condition was, however, most unfortunate; they were at war among themselves, were easy victims of the epidemic diseases and were considered legitimate prey to be robbed and cheated, disciplined and terrorized, by Britons, Yankees, French and Spaniards alike.

It was not until 1768 that the Spanish made any real effort to strengthen their hold upon their newly acquired territory of Louisiana. Posts were established at the mouth of the Mississippi and they made efforts to prevent the encroachments of the British; who, in turn, were doing all in their power to win the Indians away from Spain. Within a few years the colonists were at war with England and the Revolution reached even to the shores of Iowa. The British attempted to enlist the Indians against the "Bostonians" and, in 1779, Gautier, a French

Canadian, headed a command of two hundred and eight Indian allies in an attempt to drive the Americans from Illinois. In this year, also, Spain declared war against England. The English now proposed a campaign with a double purpose, one to harass the Americans and the other to drive the Spanish from the Mississippi and their great trading post at St. Louis. Accordingly an expedition of seven hundred and fifty men; soldiers, traders, and Indians, proceeded down the Wisconsin to Prairie du Chien. Here they were joined by other traders with bands of friendly Indians. That this warfare extended to Clayton county is evidenced by the fact, that, in April, 1780, an American trader's armed barge-load of goods and provisions, with twelve men was seized and plundered off the mouth of Turkey river on the Iowa side. The Indian allies soon deserted the British, however, and the proposed attack on St. Louis never developed into more than a foray which terrorized the upper valley of the Mississippi.

Freed from the British yoke, the American colonists soon showed their adventurous disposition by efforts to control the fur trade of the west. They were hardy woodsmen and adapted themselves to the life of the wilderness. They were able to ingratiate themselves with the Indians and soon became a real menace to Spanish power in America. Above all things, the Americans demanded the free navigation of the Mississippi. So active were the colonists that, in 1794, Baron de Carondelet reported "a general revolution threatens Spain in America unless it apply a powerful and speedy remedy." To counteract British and American influences, Spain sought to strengthen its power by granting concessions both to settlers and traders. It was in this way that Andrew Todd, a hardy Irishman, obtained, as a concession, a grant to carry on the exclusive trade of all the upper Mississippi, for this privilege paying a duty of six per cent. Todd died of yellow fever in 1796 and the English and Canadian traders were left in possession of the field.

#### THE GIARD GRANT

Carondelet was a governor of much ability and foresight, and had Spain been in position or had the inclination to back him in his efforts to develop the Mississippi Valley, the subsequent history of Louisiana might have been very different.

It was in pursuance of his plan of encouraging actual settlers that Don Carlos Dehault Delassus, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, made, in November, 1800, a grant of 6,808½ arpents, or about 5,860 acres, to Basil Giard, a French Canadian friend of Julien Dubuque. This is the celebrated "Giard grant" from which so many titles run in Clayton county. This grant was one of the two Spanish land grants in Iowa which were recognized by the United States, this being done in 1816. Giard erected cabins on the present site of the city of McGregor. The tract was six miles long, east and west, and a mile and a half wide. Giard lived on this tract, from 1796 to 1808, and had a portion of it under cultivation. He was also a trader and dealt profitably with the Sioux and Sacs and Foxes, who then had this territory as their hunting grounds. Giard died about the time that his claim was recognized by the United States, leaving as heirs, two daughters, Lizette and



Mary, and a grand daughter, Felicite who was the child of Angelie Suptiennee Giard. The heirs sold their interest in the entire tract to James H. Lockwood and Thomas P. Burnett, of Prairie du Chien and it is said that the consideration was three hundred dollars. The grant was patented by the United States Government, July 2, 1844. The title of Lockwood and Burnett was contested by James McGregor, Jr., and others and was under litigation for many years, and will be dealt with later in this history.

Another Spanish land grant was claimed by Julien Dubuque. This was based on a concession given by De Lassus to Francois Cayolle, dated August, 1799, and was for 7,056 arpents of land just north of the Giard tract, and described as follows: "between the mouth of the river Jaune (Yellow) and another river (Bloody Run) which empties into the Mississippi about one league lower down said Mississippi, so as the said tract make a quantity equal to a league square, but to include both rivers." Witnesses appearing before the United States land commissioners testified that they had seen a large house and a garden upon this tract and that it had been occupied for eight or nine years. Dubuque's claim was not allowed, however.

#### FREEDOM OF THE MISSISSIPPI

The hand of Spain fell heavily upon the frontiersmen of the Mississippi. It was an alien government with which they had no common ties nor common interests, and for which they had no patriotism. The Spanish rule was characterized for the most part, by cupidity and arbitrary acts. The channel of the Mississippi was the only outlet to the outside world and, so long as Spain controlled the mouth of the river, the frontiersmen were at her mercy. Spain recognized that the Mississippi Valley was essentially one and made every effort to detach that portion of the valley to the east of the river from its allegiance to the United States. The British aided in this, and there were several attempts to promote conspiracies against America. Coercive measures were also used to make the settlers feel that it would be to their benefit to unite their interests with Spain. This was done by levying duties upon all goods shipped up and down the Mississippi and these duties were imposed according to the whim of the individual Spanish official, who took all, or part of the goods as he saw fit. While the pioneers of the valley were hardy and self-sustaining, and while forest and stream provided the absolute necessities of life, all manufactured articles came by way of the Mississippi and the free navigation of that stream was absolutely essential to their welfare.

Despite this powerful weapon, Spain was unable to drive the pioneers upon their loyalty to the United States. The question of the free navigation of the Mississippi was the subject of diplomatic negotiations for a number of years. In 1786, John Jay, patriot though he was, came very near yielding to Spain by offering to recognize Spanish control of the river for twenty years, providing Spain would concede the right after that time. This treaty was repudiated and, in 1788, Congress declared "that the free navigation of the Mississippi river is a clear and essential right of the United States and that it ought to be



enforced." As a result of this declaration war seemed imminent and President Washington prepared for the conflict. Spain finally recognized the danger, but still delayed action. In 1795 the United States forced a treaty, by which the middle of the Mississippi was made the western boundary of the United States, from the thirty-first degree of latitude to its source, and navigation was made free to its mouth.

But now another monarch was raised up in France; mightier than Louis XIV, more aggressive, more rapacious, and far more capable, then his Bourbon predecessor. The great Napoleon rushed through Europe like a mighty hurricane of power, uprooting old dynasties, almost depopulating vast regions, and changing the map of the civilized world. It was one of the dreams of Napoleon to restore the French empire in America and he compelled Spain to cede, to France, all of the province of Louisiana. This treaty was made October 1, 1801.

In the same way, however, that Louis XIV was stricken down by the English hand of fate, so was Napoleon to feel the strength of British arms. Just as the Bourbon king was forced to cede his American possessions in order to keep them from falling into the hands of the British, so the French emperor was forced to give Louisiana into the hands of the new American Nation to save it from English invaders.

#### LOUISIANA PURCHASE

The story of the Louisiana Purchase need not be retold here in full. It was first proposed by Napoleon; the offer, however, including only New Orleans and territory east of the Mississippi. Thomas Jefferson was quick to grasp the opportunity and appointed Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe as plenipotentiaries to conduct the negotiations. With one of those sudden flashes of genius, which enabled the great Napoleon to forsake one cherished object, in pursuit of another still more cherished, he suddenly turned the course of the negotiations and offered to the astonished Americans the entire French possessions in North America; although for a sum largely in excess of that which they had been instructed to pay. Fifteen million dollars was the price—a huge sum in those days, although Clayton county, not the thousandth part of those possessions, could not be purchased for many times that price, to-day.

To the credit of the Americans let it be said that they realized the magnificent opportunities opened by this offer almost at once. They did not hesitate; no quibbles as to authority or constitutionality were allowed to interfere, but, with characteristic American energy, the great transaction was concluded, rushed through Congress, and the purchase made, before the French Emperor had time to change his mind.

While Napoleon parted with this vast region for a song, it was an act of wisdom on his part. The money filled his depleted treasury at a time of urgent need, and an overpowering English fleet had already been detailed for the capture of New Orleans, and the consequent wresting of Louisiana from the French, when the cession was made known. It was thus, on April 30, 1803, that this region became an integral part of the United States.

The territory secured by the Louisiana Purchase contained 1,171,-

931 square miles, exceeding, in size, by 344,087 square miles all the former territory of the United States. Discovered by Spanish adventurers in 1542, held, alternately, by Spanish and French for more than two hundred and fifty years, this region was still largely unexplored and unexploited, the white population did not exceed fifty thousand, while the exports amounted to but two million, one hundred and fifty-eight thousand dollars and the imports to two millions and a half.

#### UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES

The treaty by which Spain had ceded Louisiana to France, was a secret one and the fact of French ownership was utterly unknown to the people of New Orleans and the Mississippi Valley. It was necessary, therefore, that a double transfer be made. To complete the terms of the sale, Spain must transfer the government to France and France turn it over to America. M. Maussat was the French commissioner appointed to carry out this double change of government. He presented his credentials to the Spanish authorities at New Orleans. The keys of the city were handed him, the Spanish flag was lowered and, for twenty days, the French flag again flew over Louisiana. Then came the American commissioner, Governor Claiborne of Mississippi territory and General James Wilkinson of the United States army, and they received the new territory in behalf of the United States. The transfer was made with much pomp and military display, but, while the transfer was very pleasing to the Americans scattered along the Mississippi Valley, it was utterly distasteful to the French inhabitants of New Orleans and it was many years before their hearts became loyal to America.

The first act of Governor Claiborne was to declare the power of Spain, and of France, at an end and that of the United States of America established. Similar ceremonies took place at St. Louis the next spring, when Don Carlos de Hault de Lassus, the Spanish Lieutenant-Governor, transferred the government of Upper Louisiana to Captain Amos Stoddard, representing both France and the United States.

Captain Stoddard was the first civil commandant of Upper Louisiana and the first American to have direct authority over the territory which included Clayton county. He issued a circular in which he assured the people of "the justice and integrity of President Jefferson; that the acquisition of Louisiana would perpetuate his fame to posterity; that he had the most beneficent views for their happiness; that they were divested of the character of subjects, and clothed with that of citizens; that they would have popular suffrage, trial by jury, a confirmation of their land titles, a territorial government, to be succeeded by their admission as a state into the Federal Union; and he indulged in the hope that Upper Louisiana would become a star of no inconsiderable magnitude in the American constellation."

However auspicious the opening of American rule, and however glorious its present, it must be confessed that the first twenty-five years were years of failure and disappointment so far as Iowa was concerned. It was the dark age of Iowa history; even the slight hold

maintained by France and by Spain was relaxed and the country, reverted almost to its aboriginal state. This was due to several causes. First there was an immense area east of the Mississippi to be developed; Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin were in their infancy, and there were millions of acres open to settlement before the Mississippi was reached. Second, the dark shadow of slavery already fell malignantly over the land and Louisiana was only anxious for the development of what might, probably, become slave territory. Third, and strangest of all, Iowa was regarded as a barren, inhospitable land not capable, owing to the infertility of the soil, of supporting a stable population. As a reason why the boundaries of the proposed state of Missouri should include a large portion of what is now Iowa, it was stated that this was necessary simply for the maintenance of outposts to ward off Indian attacks and that this state of Iowa was composed of barren tracts and that "ages must pass before it would be inhabited." This belief, that Iowa was an uninhabitable wilderness, led to its being set apart as an Indian reservation, much as Indian territory was in later years. Indeed, had it not been for the warlike Black Hawk, it is probable that Iowa would have remained still longer a "terra incognita."

In the history of this period there are three things to be considered: First, the act of the government of the United States to control and develop its new territories, together with the various changes of administration which Iowa underwent on its road to statehood; second, the fur trade through which the Americans came in contact with the Indians and gained their first real knowledge of this region; and, third, the condition and history of the Indians themselves. The purchase of Louisiana presented at once, a new phase of the great slavery question which was to divide our country until finally settled by the Civil War. Under French and Spanish dominion, Louisiana was slave territory and New Orleans was a great slave market. At the same time slavery had generally come under the ban and was prohibited in the Northwest Territory, by the Ordinance of 1787. The treaty with France provided that property rights were to be respected, and it was held that this included property rights in slaves, making the new purchase slave territory. Others demanded the prohibition of slavery in the new domain. Congress then began the long series of compromises which characterized its treatment of the slavery question up until the time of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Louisiana was divided into two parts, the thirty-third degree, north latitude, being the boundary. The south part was called the Territory of Orleans with a government similar to that of Mississippi which permitted slavery. The north part was called the District of Louisiana and it was added to the territory of Indiana and the laws of Indiana governed it. William Henry Harrison as governor of Indiana Territory was, on October 1, 1804, escorted into St. Louis, and proclaimed governor of the District of Louisiana. This act placed the northern half in free territory, but this did not long continue. Many residents of St. Louis came from New Orleans and were slave owners and they objected seriously to any interference with slavery. Yielding to this demand Governor Harrison, and the judges



associated with him, passed "a law respecting slaves" in the District of Louisiana and this act extended the institution of slavery from the Gulf of Mexico to the British boundaries. At the same time and, by the same authority, all of the Louisiana Purchase north of the Missouri River was constituted the District of St. Charles, and the Giard grant appeared in state papers as located in St. Charles county.

The District of Louisiana as an annex to Indiana Territory lasted but nine months and, on July 4, 1805, it became Louisiana Territory and General James Wilkinson was the first governor. It was under Governor Wilkinson's direction that Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike headed an exploring expedition to the sources of the Mississippi. Pike and his party left St. Louis, August 9, 1805, and, on the first of September, they reached the mines of the Monsieur Dubuque, who "saluted them with a fieldpiece and received them with every mark of attention." The mines were in a prosperous condition, yielding from twenty to forty thousand pounds of lead a year. On the fourth of September, Pike reached Prairie du Chien and on September 5th he crossed to the present site of McGregor and selected a height as "a commanding spot, level on top, a spring in the rear, most suitable for a military post." This is the beautiful bluff now known as "Pike's Peak" and is included in the area which, it is so properly urged, should be set apart as a National Park. Pike found one of the three chief villages of the Fox Indians located in Clayton County near the mouth of Turkey river. He estimated the total number of Fox Indians at 1,750, four hundred being warriors, five hundred women and eight hundred and fifty children. The Sacs were more numerous, having a total population of about 2,850. A map drawn from the notes of Lieutenant Pike shows the general contour of the Mississippi. Back of the river a trail is indicated, following the river closely, from Fort Madison to Prairie du Chien. A small dot indicates a lead mine and on the Illinois side of the river is the designation "M. Dubuque's route," just north is shown a space marked "Prairie." The Turkey river is next indicated and at its mouth is marked "Fox Village." Prairie du Chien and the Ouisconsin river are shown and, opposite them, are marks indicating a settlement together with "Cayard river," "Yellow river" and "Painted Rock." In the account of his expedition Pike mentions the settlements of Giard, Dubuque and Tesson as the only white settlements in Iowa, along the Mississippi river.

In 1812, Orleans Territory was organized and admitted as the state of Louisiana. This necessitated a new name for the Territory of Louisiana and it was called the Territory of Missouri, its boundaries remaining as before. William Clark was governor of Missouri Territory and Edward Hempstead the delegate to Congress. The west developed very rapidly during this period but the increase in population was not felt in Iowa, which was still regarded as fit only to be the home of roving Indian bands. Illinois was admitted into the Union in 1818 and this hastened the desire for statehood on the part of the people of Missouri. The memorial sent to Congress from Missouri stated that the "population was little short of one hundred thousand souls, was increasing daily with a rapidity almost unequaled and that the territorial limits were too extensive to admit of convenient gov-



ernment." The north boundary asked for the new state was a line drawn due west from the mouth of the Rock river. As the justification for this large state the memorial adds: "To a superficial observer these limits may seem extravagant, but attention to the topography of the country will show they are necessary. The districts of country that are fertile and susceptible of cultivation are small, and separated from each other at great distances by immense plains and barren tracts, which must for ages remain waste and uninhabited. These frontier settlements can only become important and respectable by being united, and one great object is the formation of an effectual barrier against Indian incursions, by pushing a strong settlement on the Little Platte to the west, and on the Des Moines to the north."

The question of the admission of Missouri agitated the whole country for many months, the entire question hinging on whether it should be admitted as free or slave territory. The legislatures of northern states passed resolutions demanding the prohibition of slavery, and the southern states were equally insistent that slavery should be recognized and permitted. Many slave owners in Missouri held public meetings and denied the right of Congress to interfere. During this long debate the southern portion of Missouri was formed into the territory of Arkansas, in which slavery was recognized. This was done in 1819. We will not follow the long course of the Missouri Compromise by which the admission of Maine as a free state was made contingent upon the admission of Missouri as a slave state. It was this compromise which greatly strengthened the hold of slavery upon the nation and which was the next step toward the great Civil War. The boundaries of Missouri were reduced nearly to their present line, as Senator William A. Trimble of Ohio, urged that the valley of the Des Moines be left to whatever future state there might be formed from the territory north of Missouri.

#### BIRTH OF IOWA

Missouri was admitted into the Union in 1821 and, with a singular lack of statesmanship, all of the territory from the Missouri line to the British boundary and west to the Rocky Mountains was left practically without a government of any kind. It is true that there was a provision for the prohibition of slavery and certain laws regulating traffic with the Indians, but Iowa was left an outcast orphan, nameless, disorganized and abandoned to the aborigines. President Monroe in 1824 and President Jackson in 1829, urged that the Indian tribes east of the Mississippi be transferred to this territory and that it be constituted as a huge Indian reserve. From 1821 to 1834, Iowa existed as an unorganized territory without government except of the most general nature. By June 1833, the purchase of Indian lands in eastern Iowa was completed and the great rush of settlement began. Hundreds of men were waiting in western Wisconsin and Illinois, for the signal that settlement would be permitted across the Mississippi, and the eastern counties filled up very rapidly.

This sudden transformation of the wilderness into a busy settlement was, very naturally, attended by strife and contention. There

was an eager rush for choice locations for town sites and water rights and it soon became apparent that some system of law was necessary even though the first settlers were remarkable in their fair dealing with each other. A petition was forwarded to Congress asking that the laws of the United States be extended to this territory. A bill was introduced establishing the territory of Wisconsin which was to extend from Lake Michigan to the Missouri river. In the meantime the necessity for courts and some code of laws became more and more imperative. At Dubuque, Patrick O'Conner was murdered by George O'Keaf, and it was found that there was no court having jurisdiction to try the murderer. A citizens' court was formed and judicial forms were followed as nearly as possible. O'Keaf was given a fair trial, found guilty and sentenced to death. The murder was committed May 19, 1834 and O'Keaf was executed on June 20, showing a speed which might well be emulated by more formal courts. In recognition of these appeals for some form of government the territory north of the state of Missouri, lying between the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers was attached to the territory of Michigan, although it was understood that this was only a temporary makeshift. This action was hailed with delight, for the sturdy pioneers were stalwart American patriots and were glad to feel themselves more closely united to the stars and stripes. To Nicholas Carrol, an Irishman living near Dubuque is given the credit for raising the first Star Spangled Banner upon Iowa soil, and strangely enough, this flag was made by a black woman, who was a slave.

An extra session of the legislative council of Michigan territory was convened at Detroit September, 1834. In his message to this assembly Governor Stephen T. Mason, said, concerning Iowa: "The inhabitants of the western side of the Mississippi are an intelligent, industrious, and enterprising people, and their interests are entitled to our special attention. At this time they are peculiarly situated. Without the limits of any regularly organized government, they depend alone upon their own virtue, intelligence, and good sense, as a guaranty of their mutual and individual rights and interests. Spread over an extensive country, the immediate organization of one or two counties, with one or more townships in each county, is respectfully suggested, and urged. A circuit and county courts will also be necessary, making a special circuit for the counties west of the Mississippi, as it would be unreasonable to require the attendance of inhabitants of that section at courts east of the river. I rely upon your diligence and wisdom for the measures demanded by the annexation of the new territory to the limits of Michigan."

In pursuance with this suggestion of the governor, the territory west of the Mississippi was divided into two counties, Dubuque and Des Moines, and each was made a township, the first, Julien; the second, Flint Hill. A line west from the lower end of Rock Island was made the boundary between the two counties. County courts were established and the laws then enforced in Iowa county, were extended to the new counties across the river. Iowa county laid upon the east shore of the Mississippi and was closest to the newly formed counties, and the fact that its laws were extended to them caused them to be known as the Iowa District and this fact, undoubtedly, played some part in



naming the state at a later date. The first judge named for Dubuque County, of which Clayton County was a part, was John King, of Dubuque, founder of the *Dubuque Visitor*, the first newspaper published in Iowa. In 1835, George W. Jones was elected as territorial delegate from Michigan. He secured the passage of a bill creating the Territory of Wisconsin, and this new territory included Iowa and portions of Minnesota and the two Dakotas. Henry Dodge was appointed governor and David Irwin an associate justice, to preside over the courts of Dubuque and Demoiné counties.

A census was taken in September 1836, and it was found that Dubuque and Demoiné counties had a population of 10,531. They were thus entitled to six members of the council and thirteen members of the House of Representatives in the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature. Dubuque county, at an election held in October, 1836, sent to the council Thomas McCraney, John Foley and Thomas McKnight; to the House, Loring Wheeler, Hardin Nowlin, Hosea T. Camp, Peter H. Engle and Patrick Quigley. This first legislative session in which the people of Iowa had a part, convened October 25, 1836, at Belmont which was the temporary capital. Peter H. Engle, of Dubuque was elected Speaker of the House. This legislature chartered the Miners Bank at Dubuque, this being the first bank in Iowa. Belmont proved to have but poor accommodations for the legislators and the capital of Wisconsin was removed, temporarily to Burlington, where the second session of the legislature was held, in 1837. This legislature memorialized Congress to pass an act organizing a separate territorial government in that part of Wisconsin lying west of the Mississippi river.

The question of the rights of pre-emption, by actual settlers, on government lands, was a burning issue and the memorial to Congress relative to this matter stated: "Twenty-five thousand people have settled on lands in Wisconsin Territory, west of the Mississippi river, in what is called the 'Iowa District,' improved farms, erected buildings, built towns, laid out cities and made valuable improvements, but have not yet been able to secure any kind of title to their homes and farms. Congress is urged to enact the law authorizing all bona fide settlers to pre-empt for each actual occupant for land, who has shown his good faith by making improvement, the right to enter a half section of land before it shall be offered at public sale." It was at this session of the Wisconsin Legislature, held at Burlington, in 1837, that the county of Clayton was named and organized and the county seat fixed at Prairie La Porte, afterward named Guttenberg. The county, as then organized, had the same eastern and southern borders as at present but its northwest boundary was fixed by the so-called "Neutral Ground" and included a portion of what is now Allamakee county and did not include the northwest corner of the present county of Clayton.

It has often been, mistakenly, stated that Clayton County extended over all of northern Iowa and included large portions of Minnesota and the Dakotas. This was not the case. Fayette County was established at the same session of the Legislature, and, as the border county, it was the one which included this vast territory. However, Fayette County was unorganized for some time and was "attached" to Clayton County for governmental purposes, so that, while Clayton County at no time in-

cluded this large territory within its borders, it did exercise jurisdiction over the entire territory included within its own boundaries and the vast area included in the first boundaries of Fayette County. In June, 1838, the bill dividing Wisconsin Territory and creating a separate government for that portion of it west of the Mississippi, passed Congress and, on July 3, 1838, Iowa emerged triumphant from the chaos of the past and had a name and an identity of its own.

#### INDIAN HISTORY

Having related the political history of this region under the French and Spanish and under the various jurisdictions of the United States, after the purchase of Louisiana, it is now fitting that we should consider the actual conditions existing during this period. It is an undeniable fact that government has much more to do with the general welfare of the people than is generally conceded, and the influence of governmental changes can be readily traced in the history of north-eastern Iowa. To understand Iowa during this period one must know something of the numerous Indian tribes which inhabited it, but, as these tribes had no written history, as they lived chiefly by hunting and trapping over large areas, and as the most pretentious of their villages were but temporary affairs, this history is difficult to write. From the time when the Europeans, of whatever nationality or colony, arrived upon the shores of America, there was a constant pushing back of the Indians, in the face of the oncoming tribes of pale faces. The Sacs and Foxes, who inhabited this region just prior to its settlement by the whites, were not indigenous to this soil. In common with other Indians they were driven back by the colonists and weakened by wars with hostile tribes. They were, although linked together in later times, originally separate and distinct nations. Their homes were in the east along the Atlantic coast. Both were unsuccessful in war and were driven westward. They emigrated from New York to the lake regions, and finally, settled, if that word can be applied to people who never settled, in southern Wisconsin and Illinois. They doubtless crossed the Mississippi, but this was not their favorite hunting ground. It was before their coming to Illinois, that the two tribes practically united, for purposes of defense and offense, and while, at all times, they maintained a large degree of individuality, they were closely allied in many ways.

The true conception of the Indian is found midway between the heroic figure pictured in the novels of Fenimore Cooper and the whiskey debauched brute which he was made by the unscrupulous traders. Many of the ideas, and many of the customs of the Indians, in their native state, before they were polluted by contact with the whites, were beautiful. From the folk-lore of the Fox Indians there are preserved to us many things worthy of a high-minded and intellectual race. Some of these legends are both prophetic and pathetic, as, for instance, their account of the creation of the Fox race, which is as follows: "The Fox was the first of men on earth. He came before all other. He was red at the face, at the hands, at the legs, all over his body, everywhere. He was red, like the color of the blood within



him. Such was the way he was made by Wisaka, and such was the way he looked when his maker let him step forth on earth among the Manitous. Among the Manitous he mingled. He was present at their councils, and had the right of speech. The Manitous looked upon him with wonder, and made comment when he passed in and out among them. He was very much of a Manitou. Afterwards, came other Foxes, Manitous like the first. By and by they grew great in number. As time went on, they took the form, the looks, and the nature of the people that they now are. Things have changed since those times. The people are now in distress. They no longer reap the good of the land which is theirs; little by little, it is slipping from their hands. Bird and animal-kind is vanishing, and the world is not as it was in the beginning. With all this the Manitou is displeased. On some day in the future the Manitou will take upon himself to destroy this earth. He will then create it anew, and place his chosen to dwell there once more. In that day the Fox will look as he did in the beginning; he will be red all over the body, red as the blood within him."

Concerning death could any nation have a more beautiful belief than this? "It is natural for one to die, and hence there is nothing unusual about it. It is the same as going on a far journey, and I like the thought of making it as a journey here in life. I know that yonder, behind the west, somewhere in the great distance, there flows a river, that over the river is a bridge for me to cross, and that there on the farther shore awaits one who will give me welcome. I do not know what my life in the spirit-world will be like. I concern myself little about the thought of it. I simply rest confident that I shall find it natural and simple, the same as here. Such are my notions about death, and I have yet no good reason to change them."

The Indian also had high ideals as to hospitality. It is not of record that the white people were at any time greeted ungraciously or that the Indians were malignant until they found that the whites were aggressive, wished to occupy lands which they had every reason to regard as their own and until they were victims of the white man's greed and injustice. Father Marquette, traveling practically alone and unarmed, was greeted with the utmost kindness.

While the Indians were possessed of many high ideals, it must be confessed that their code of warfare was on no higher plane than that of the civilized warfare of today. It is true that they did not use poison gases, nor drop bombs upon innocent women and children, nor attempt the wholesale starvation of a race, but with their limited resources they did the best they could to make war terrible. They believed, just as European countries seem to believe today, that the ultimate design of war was to exterminate the enemy, root and branch. With this idea in mind, they were not particular as to whether they shot an enemy in the face or in the back, whether they lured him to death in the ambush or crept upon and killed him in his sleep. Women and children were as legitimate prey for the tomahawk, as they now are for the bomb. Giving no quarter, the Indian expected none; he met death with stoical bravery.

Speaking roughly there were but three great Indian nations which

left an impress on the history of northeastern Iowa. The Sioux were the most cruel and warlike. Their range was to the north and west. They were fonder of the prairie than of the woods and streams. They favored the pony, rather than the canoe.

The Sacs and Foxes, one tribe of which was called the Iowas, were less savage and less nomadic than the Sioux. At the beginning of the nineteenth century they confined themselves chiefly to southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

The Winnebagoes belonged to the Dakota or Sioux group. They were found in Iowa at an early date, but migrated eastward. They were allies of the British and took part in the battle of Tippecanoe and the massacre at Fort Dearborn. They also fought with Black Hawk, their habitat being in Wisconsin. They were the last Indians to come to this region and the last to leave it.

Northeastern Iowa, with its many streams, its wooded hills, its bounteous supplies of rich fur bearing game and its easy accessibility to market, over the great Mississippi highway, became a coveted hunting ground for all the western tribes, and the fact that it was so rich in all that satisfied the Indians' wants, made it a bloody battle ground.

The generous hospitality accorded Marquette was soon changed to suspicion by the crafty tricks of French traders, the white man's firewater brought degeneracy and drunkenness, the policy of the government in the distribution of inadequate supplies, in payment for rich tracts of land, led to pauperism, indolence and helplessness; the injustice of many of the treaties and the lack of good faith shown by the white man in many instances, induced hatred and a desire for revenge.

#### FUR TRADERS

The surrender of Canada brought British influences to the head waters of the Mississippi and brought about the sharp competition between the English, French and Spanish. The only product of this region for which the Europeans cared was the product of the chase. The Indians were expert hunters and trappers and the white men wished to exploit their craft. For this purpose the British, following the example of the French, formed vast companies, financed in the old country, managed at Montreal or Quebec and reaching throughout the northern half of the continent. The Hudson's Bay Company operated in the far north while the Northwest Company and the Michilimacinac Company controlled the region to the south, the latter company with headquarters at Mackinac, confining its operation to the Upper Mississippi valley. Goods of English manufacture were shipped, via Montreal to Mackinac and thence, by the Fox-Wisconsin route, followed by Marquette, to the mouth of the Wisconsin; thus Prairie du Chien became the great distributing point from which the traders departed, following the Indians to their hunting grounds, and to which the Indians, for a territory of several hundred miles, brought the spoils of the season's hunt.

The close of the Revolutionary War and the treaty of Paris, in 1783, brought a new factor into the Upper Mississippi regions. Whereas the commercial struggle had been twofold it was now three-

fold, but the British occupied the north and continued to frequent this region after the close of the war, because the American Government made no determined effort to enter its northwest territory. The British traders were canny enough to make use of the old French voyageurs and the most of the employees of the British companies were French Canadians, who already had established intimate relations with the Indians. Thus Jean Baptiste Faribault, as an employee of the British company, penetrated as far as the Des Moines valley and maintained a post there for several years. This whole region abounded with beaver, otter, deer, bear and other wild animals. A description written by Faribault gives some idea of the trader's life. He says: "The wages of a good clerk at that time was \$200 per annum; interpreter \$150, and common laborers or voyageurs \$100, and the rations allowed them were of the simplest description. But the abundance of game more than compensated for any deficiency in food. The articles used in the trade with the Indians were principally blankets, cloths, calicos, tobacco and cheap jewelry, including wampum, which latter served in lieu of money, as a basis of exchange. During the winter the traders and their men ensconced themselves in their warm log cabins, but in the early spring it was required of them to visit the various Indian tents to secure the furs and pelts collected by the savages in their hunts. Goods were not then given on credit, but everything was paid for on delivery."

Perrin du Lac, a French traveler in this region, in 1801, urged Napoleon to contend for the commerce of the upper Mississippi. He asserted that the British had no claim to this trade because their Indian customers hunted game entirely on French soil and then repaired, with furs and skins, to their rendezvous at Prairie du Chien. Goods shipped from New Orleans in flat bottomed boats, he declared, could reach these places at an increase of cost from 10 to 12 per cent. English merchandise must be transported from Montreal to Mackinac at a cost of 25 per cent, with 7 per cent additional for transportation to Prairie du Chien. The French traders, he declared, thus had a decided advantage, and especially as the English boats were too small to carry heavy loads as compared with those of the French; and it required four months for the journey from Montreal to Prairie du Chien and but one month from New Orleans to Prairie du Chien. The magnitude of the fur trade at this time may be seen from the statement of Du Lac that the Sioux annually sold two thousand five hundred bundles of skins to the English traders, while the Sacs and Foxes and the Iowas furnished several hundred packs more.

Thomas Jefferson was the first President who saw the possibilities of the Northwest as a trade center. He urged exploration and instituted the Lewis and Clark expedition. Lewis urged the establishment of a post at Prairie du Chien to trade with the Sacs and Foxes, whose hunting grounds were described as along both sides of the Mississippi, between the Wisconsin and the Illinois. William Henry Harrison, as Governor of Indiana, made the first treaty with the Sacs and Foxes which affected this country. By this treaty the Indians relinquished all title to lands east of the Mississippi. It was this treaty, which the Indians claimed was signed by drunken and



irresponsible chiefs, which was the cause of the Black Hawk war. This treaty also provided for Government trade with the Indians. In April, 1806, Nicolas Boilvin was appointed as the first Indian agent in the Iowa country with instructions to visit Prairie du Chien, to conciliate the Indians, to suppress the liquor traffic, and to instruct the Indians in agriculture and especially in the raising of potatoes. Boilvin removed to Prairie du Chien, to replace agent John Campbell, who was killed in a duel with Redford Crawford.

In the great contest for the Indian trade now developed between the British and the Americans, the British had the advantage as they had been longer in the business, had established relations with the Indians, knew their wants, and, for some reason, supplied them with better goods. It was, however, the settled policy on the part of the United States to drive out the British traders. A government factory was established at Fort Madison, and in 1811 Boilvin urged the founding of a factory at Prairie du Chien. Boilvin called particular attention to the rich lead mines, saying that, during the season, the Indians had produced four hundred thousands pounds of that metal. During all this time the British were using every effort to cripple and embarrass the young American nation, this, not only at sea but on land. They did everything possible to incite the Indians against the Americans. They employed a Winnebago chief to get all the nations of Indians to Detroit, to see their fathers, the British, who told them "they pity them in their situation with the Americans, because the Americans had taken their lands and their game; that they must join and send them off from their land; they told the savages that the Americans could not give them a blanket, nor any good thing for their families." Many of the Indians went to Detroit and the Sacs and Foxes were aroused against the Americans. Following the great victory of Harrison over the Indians at Tippecanoe the Winnebagoes raided the traders' camp in the lead mine district, tearing the men limb from limb and stripping their bones of all flesh. A messenger was sent from Fort Madison to Prairie du Chien to notify that post of the Tippecanoe victory and the massacre at the Spanish mines. In 1812, the friendly portion of the Sacs and Foxes migrated to the Missouri river to get out of the war zone between the British and the Americans.

War was declared by the United States against Great Britain in June, 1812; among the grievances recited being the Indian disturbances in the Northwest. The Winnebagoes and the Sacs under Black Hawk attacked Fort Madison and rendered that fort well nigh untenable. Governor Howard urged that a campaign against the Indians as far north as the Wisconsin river, and the erection of a fort at Prairie du Chien were necessary.

During the winter of 1813-14, the French traders at Mackinac, who sympathized with the British, planned an attack upon the American trading post at Prairie du Chien. In May 1814, the Americans ascended the Mississippi with a gunboat and barges, carrying one hundred and fifty volunteers and sixty regulars. Just north of Prairie du Chien they erected Fort Shelby and equipped it with six cannon to co-operate with the fourteen cannon on the gunboat. Governor Clark left the new fort under the command of Lieutenant Joseph Perkins



and, in July, 1814, the fort was attacked by a force consisting of British officers, traders, employees and several hundred Indians. The gunboat, stationed between McGregor and Prairie du Chien, was attacked, and although the cannon responded valiantly, the gunboat was driven down stream, pursued by the French and Indians in canoes as far as Rock Island. Perkins was obliged to surrender, and Fort Shelby became Fort McKay and was held by the British and their Indian allies. The British considered this fort of great importance, as did also the Americans. Two efforts were made by the Americans to recapture the fort. One expedition under Lieutenant Campbell was repulsed by the Sacs and Foxes under Black Hawk, while Major Zachary Taylor with a force of three hundred and fifty men was met and defeated at Rock Island by a force of British and Indians. The great victory of General Jackson at New Orleans finally decided the possession of the Mississippi in favor of the United States, but the British traders, using Fort McKay as their base, continued to control the commerce with the Indians, whom they incited to take American scalps.

At the conclusion of the war of 1812 the British demanded freedom of navigation on the Mississippi, but the treaty contained no such provision, although this was not known at Fort McKay until May 1815. This treaty practically ended British control of this region, although many British traders remained, and for a number of years, the Indians received presents and supplies from Canada. In the meantime serious competition had arisen against the British traders through the company founded by John Jacob Astor. In 1800, Astor had come into prominence in the Montreal fur market by reason of a great corner on muskrat skins. Eight years later he incorporated the American Fur Company, later he secured control of the Mackinac Company which he rechristened the Southwest Company, with Prairie du Chien as its principal frontier post. Joseph Rolette was one of the owners of this company and for a number of years he had charge of the Astor interests at Prairie du Chien. He was the dictator of all this region, and was known as "King Rolette." During the time when the English were in the ascendancy and, afterwards, when French and English free traders were numerous, Astor was a great advocate of the Government factory, but as soon as the British were driven out and his own company grew to be the first American trust, he was very anxious for the abolishment of Government trade and that the whole Indian problem be left to private enterprise.

Despite Astor's opposition the Government established a factory at Prairie du Chien which was now called Fort Crawford. Although the law provided that no licenses to trade with the Indians were to be granted to foreigners, the President was given discretion and he permitted Indian agents to issue licenses. This power was not always used with wisdom and, as a result, licenses to trade were issued to men of vicious character, who cheated and despoiled the Indians and plied them with whiskey. The factor at Fort Crawford complained of this swarm of private traders who exploited the Indian on every hand.

In 1818, all licenses were refused to others than Americans, and, the foreign traders having been driven out, Astor turned his attention

toward ending the competition given him by the Government factories. In this year, 1818, the situation was further complicated by war which broke out between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes. The latter went on the warpath, killed forty Sioux and brought thirty women and children prisoners to Prairie du Chien, where, under the very guns of the fort, they indulged in a wild celebration of their victory, parading the river bank with their bloody trophies. The Sioux had much difficulty in getting their relatives back, and this war lasted intermittently for nearly twelve years. The traders, however, generally, acted in the interests of peace, for the wars interfered sadly with the chase. By 1822 the machinations of the American Fur Company effected the abolishment of the factory system, the store at Fort Crawford was closed, and the Indians were left to the mercy of private traders. The fur company did not, as a rule, act directly through agents. It sold outfits of merchandise to traders to be paid for in pelts, and these traders went out, keeping in touch with the Indian hunting parties, securing the highest possible price for their goods and paying the lowest price for fur. They also established an extensive credit system with the Indians, outfitting them for the hunt and expecting their pay in furs when the hunt was over. They charged enough for their goods so that they made sufficient profit if the Indians paid one third of their account.

As late as 1822, Boilvin, Indian agent at Fort Crawford, complained that the English were still interfering with the Indians and that many of them were in the habit of visiting British posts at Malden and other Canadian points, where presents were given them and where they received supplies. The illicit trade in whiskey was one of the greatest evils of the Indian traffic. So bad had this become that all boats of traders passing Fort Crawford was searched for liquor. The agent states "the melancholy truth is that no law or regulation, will be sufficient to prevent the Indians residing immediately on our borders, from obtaining ardent spirits in any quantity they may desire." The year 1823 marked a great revolution in river traffic, for in that year the steamboat "Virginia" ascended the river, during high water, as far as Fort Snelling.

#### INDIAN WARFARE

The tribal wars between the Indians continued all through these years, and, in 1825, a determined effort was made to bring about a peace between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes. Representatives of the hostile tribes gathered at Prairie du Chien from all parts of the northern Iowa country, and a boundary line was fixed which should mark the hunting grounds of the various tribes. This boundary commenced at the mouth of the Upper Iowa river and crossed the state south and west. The tribes participating in this treaty were the Chippewas, Sacs and Foxes, Menominees, Winnebagoes and a portion of the Ottawas and Pottawatomies. In reality the Indians paid but little attention to this imaginary line and the conflict between the tribes continued.

The Winnebagoes made their first appearance in Iowa in 1826. They left their hunting ground in Illinois and invaded northeastern

Iowa. Their foray was marked by the massacre of Francis Methode and his wife and children. The murdered family had pitched their tent upon the Yellow river to make sugar, and when they failed to return to Prairie du Chien a search party of officers and soldiers was sent from Fort Crawford and their bodies were found. Twelve Winnebagoes were imprisoned for this offense.

The American Fur Company now had virtual control of all the trade of this district. George Davenport, who proved himself a very astute agent for the Astor trust, was a power along the Mississippi. He had control of trade from the mouth of the Iowa river to the Turkey river, while "King Rolette" bought furs north of the Turkey river, with headquarters at Prairie du Chien.

(One of the bloodiest episodes of the Indian warfare in northern Iowa took place off the shores of Clayton County. The account of this battle as given in Gue's History of Iowa is as follows: "In 1828 the Sioux and the Winnebagoes, then in alliance, sent an invitation to the Sac and Fox chiefs near Dubuque to meet them in council and forever bury the hatchet. The Fox chiefs, unsuspecting of treachery started toward the place of meeting. On the second evening, as they were in camp for the night, on the east shore of the Mississippi near the mouth of the Wisconsin river, they were fired upon by more than a thousand Sioux warriors. Rushing from their hiding place the treacherous Sioux killed all but two of the Foxes who plunged into the Mississippi and swam to the west shore, carrying news of the massacre to their village. Stung to desperation by the act of treachery the Foxes prepared to avenge the murder of their chiefs. A war party was organized, led by the newly elected chief, Ma-que-pra-um. They embarked in canoes and stealthily landed in the vicinity of their enemy, concealed by the dense underbrush. Toward midnight they swam the river and crept silently upon the sleeping foe. Nerved with the spirit of vengeance, they silently buried their tomahawks in the heads of seventeen Sioux chiefs and warriors and crept to their canoes without the loss of a man.")

Another account of this Indian battle, which was the most important ever fought in this vicinity, is as follows: "I visited Prairie du Chien, and was a guest of Joseph Rolette, agent of the American Fur Company. One evening we were startled by the reports of fire-arms on the Mississippi, succeeded by sounds of Indian drums and savage yells. About midnight we were aroused by footsteps on the piazza and by knocking on the doors and shutters. Mr. Rolette went out to ascertain the cause, and was informed that a bloody battle had been fought, and the visitors were the victors, and called on their traders to obtain spirit-water for a celebration. Their wants were supplied. The warriors kept up a horrible pow-wow through the night with savage yells. In the morning we heard the particulars of the fight, and during the day witnessed a most revolting exhibition. On the day before the battle, some twenty Sioux joined by a few Menomonees, encamped on an island opposite Prairie du Chien. The Sioux had information that a party from the Fox village at Dubuque were to visit Prairie du Chien, and would encamp for the night near the mouth of the Wisconsin river. That afternoon the Sioux party



descended the Mississippi and hid in thick bushes near where their victims would encamp. Between sunset and dark, the unsuspecting Foxes—one old chief, one squaw, a boy of fourteen years, and fifteen warriors—came up and disembarked. After they had landed and were carrying their effects on shore leaving their guns and warclubs in the canoes, the party in ambush sprang to their feet and fired upon the Foxes. All were slain, except the boy, who escaped down the river. Hands, feet, ears, and scalps were cut off, and the heart of the chief cut from his breast, as trophies. The next day the victors, accompanied by a few squaws, paraded the streets with drum and rattle, displaying on poles the scalps and dismembered fragments of their victims. The whole party was painted in various colors, wore feathers, and carried their tomahawks, warclubs, and scalping knives. Stopping in front of the principal houses in the village, they danced the war-dance and the scalp-dance with their characteristic yells. The mangled limbs were still fresh and bleeding; one old squaw carried on a pole the hand with a strip of skin from the arm of a murdered man, she keeping up the death-song and joining in the scalp-dance. After this exhibition, which lasted two or three hours, the warriors went to a small mound, about two hundred yards from Mr Rolette's residence, made a fire, roasted the heart of the old chief, and divided it into small pieces among the warriors, who devoured it.

"This occurred in a town of six hundred inhabitants, under the walls of the United States garrison, within musket shot of the fort. Neither civil nor military authority made any effort to prevent it. In the afternoon the Sioux embarked in their canoes to return to their village. Not long afterward a war party formed in the Fox village to avenge the murder. Wailings and lamentations for the dead gave way to savage yells. With blackened faces, chanting the death-song, the party entered their canoes. Arriving at the bluffs opposite Prairie du Chien they discovered a Menomonee encampment spread out on the ground, nearly under the guns of Fort Crawford. The Foxes lay in ambush till midnight, when, girded with tomahawk and scalping knife, they swam the river and stole upon the foe. In the first lodge an old chief sat by a smouldering fire, smoking his pipe in sleepy silence. They dispatched him without making a disturbance, and pursued their bloody work from lodge to lodge, until the whole encampment, with the women and children, met the same fate. Then with a yell of satisfaction and revenge they took to the canoes of their victims, bearing aloft the trophies of victory. Upon reaching their village, they held their orgies and danced the scalp-dance. But fearing a swift retaliation, they concluded to abandon their village, and seek a safer place among the bands of their tribe, and near the Sacs. They settled where the city of Davenport now stands. Eye-witnesses reported seeing them as they came down past Rock Island, their canoes lashed side by side, the heads and scalps of their enemies set upon poles. They landed with shouts of triumph, singing war-songs, displaying the scalps and ghastly faces of the slain. The new village was called Morgan, after their chief, a half-breed of the Scotch and Fox blood."

## NEUTRAL GROUND

This continued warfare proved that the boundary line was totally ineffective as a barrier and, at the same time it made it more difficult to bring the Indians together for any friendly settlement of their troubles. This was at last arranged, however, and the chiefs of all the Indian tribes of this region were assembled in one of the greatest Indian gatherings ever held in the northwest, at Prairie du Chien, in July, 1830. The great council preceding this treaty lasted for several days and was accompanied by feasting, dancing, games and races. The councils were held with all solemnity and with rigid adherence to Indian etiquette. The council was presided over by General William Clark and not only the Indians, but the foremost men among the traders were present. As a result of this gathering the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a strip twenty miles in width south of the imaginary boundary line which commenced at the mouth of the Upper Iowa and extended across the state, and the Sioux ceded a twenty-mile strip, north of the same line. This gave the United States possession of a strip forty miles wide which came to be known as "The Neutral Ground."

The Neutral Ground played an important part in the history of Clayton county, it was the northern boundary of the county as first formed, and it included a portion of the county as it now is. While the United States came into ownership of this land, it was with the understanding that it was to be devoted entirely to the use of the Indians, the purpose being, as the name indicated, to have a tract, owned by the government, which should serve as a barrier between the hostile tribes.) It was predicted that game would disappear from this district within a short time and the United States agreed to pay each of the contracting tribes from \$2,000 to \$3,000 annually for ten years. It was further agreed that agriculture was to be promoted, the Indians supplied with blacksmiths, iron, and farm implements, and their children were to be educated. Nathan Boone, son of the famous Daniel Boone, headed the party which surveyed this tract, beginning their work in April, 1832, and completing the northern line in about two months. He had just started on the southern line and had proceeded some two miles west of the Mississippi, when the outbreak of the Black Hawk war caused him to stop and the work was not finished until the latter part of 1833.

Joseph M. Street, Indian agent, accompanied the surveying party for a time and he writes the first intimate description of Clayton county of which we have record, giving a picture of the county as it was before the inroads of American settlers. Mr. Street says: "I passed through the country, and joined the surveyors near the Red Cedars river. Went to the extreme western boundary of the cession at Red Cedar, and examined the country on that river, the Wa-pee-sa-pee-nee-can, and Turkey river, and its two principal branches, the Yellow and Gerrard (Giard) rivers. Taking a ride through the country south of Gerrard river, between the Mississippi and Turkey rivers, I was out seventeen days, during which time I saw a part of the purchase from the Sioux and passed through the (Black Hawk) pur-

chase from the Sacs and Foxes in numerous directions. "On Turkey river, and the whole distance to within a mile of the Mississippi, is a fine agricultural country, and the prairies not very large. There are considerable bodies of valuable timber on Turkey, Yellow and Gerrard rivers, and the shores of the Mississippi. I never rode through a country so full of game. The hunter who accompanied me, though living most of his time in the woods, expressed his astonishment at the abundance of all kinds of game, except buffalo; and the surveyors saw and killed many of these about thirty or forty miles west of Red Cedar, on the same purchase. Elk and deer are abundant in the prairies, and bear in the woodland. The sign of fur animals, particularly rats and otters, is considerable on all the streams and ponds, and very abundant on the Wa-pee-sa-pee-nee-can and Turkey rivers. It is a beautiful and fertile country, and, with a little attention to agriculture, is capable of sustaining the whole Winnebago nation; and if the proper measures are pursued, and inducements held out to the Indians, in a few years many hundreds will be settled in that country, producing thousands of bushels of grain and potatoes, and the cry of distress will no longer assail the ears of the government. The country abounds with fine mill streams, and situations for mills with abundance of rock are frequent. If a mill was built, and the Indians learnt to raise wheat, they would in a few years grow a sufficiency in this country for the sustenance of the whole nation and live in great plenty."

In 1832, prior to this trip by agent Street, a treaty had been made with the Winnebagoes, who were dissatisfied with their reservation east of the Mississippi and where the lands were coveted by the settlers. By this treaty the Winnebagoes were to occupy the Neutral Ground as far west as the Red Cedar. After having made this treaty the Winnebagoes were dissatisfied with its terms and wished to remain in their old homes. In this course they were encouraged by "King Rolette" who feared the loss of trade for the fur company. There was sharp dissension between Street and Rolette and the latter sought to impugn Street's motives. He wrote to the governor of Michigan Territory urging that the Winnebagoes be allowed to remain on the Wisconsin, and saying that Street was interested on account of the fact that his son owned a store at Prairie du Chien which would be benefited. Street was in reality an earnest, honest man and a real friend of the Indians. He proposed the building of a school-house and a model farm for the benefit of the Indians and stated "that the rapacious hands of the traders and the heartless speculators had reduced the Winnebagoes to slavery." The fur company agents together with the whiskey vendors vowed Street would be defeated in his program but, in August, 1833, an order was issued for the building "of a comfortable log school-house, west of the Mississippi, out of reach of the fatal whiskey traffic." In the autumn of 1833 Winnebago families numbering sixty-eight persons established themselves at an old Sac village near the Mouth of Turkey river, and others settled farther north. In the meantime white settlers were seizing the best sites for farms and towns, and both the Sioux and the Sacs and Fox Indians objected to any strangers occupying the Neutral Ground. The Winnebagoes were, therefore, frightened away and returned to their old home



across the Mississippi. In 1835 several hundred Winnebagoes re-occupied the territory but they left again in 1836. During the next few years the Winnebagoes lingered on the east bank of the Mississippi in a state of idle drunkenness, loitering about the villages, committing depredations upon the settlers, stealing horses and killing cattle and hogs. In 1839, some progress had been made in transferring the Indians to Iowa. Two Shilling's band lived near the new Winnebago school on the Yellow river; and Little Priest's and Whirling Thunder's bands were near the new farm fifteen miles west. It was not until 1840, that the government took energetic measures to force the Winnebagoes to move to the Neutral Ground. General Henry Atkinson was commissioned for this work and a post was established near the mouth of Spring Creek, Winneshiek county, and named Camp Atkinson. Company F of the Fifth U. S. Infantry furnished the garrison which was soon increased by Company B of the First U. S. Dragoons, making the garrison of Fort Atkinson number about 160. Substantial buildings of stone were erected and the military road which runs through the north part of this county was constructed from Fort Atkinson to the Mississippi river opposite Fort Crawford, at a cost of \$90,000. The presence of this military force was deemed necessary not only to transfer and control the Winnebagoes, but to protect them from the whiskey of the whites and the tomahawks of the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes. More than forty Winnebagoes were murdered by the Sacs and Foxes in this region during this time. Rev. David Lowry who, with agent Street, was a real friend of the Indians, was established as head of a government school in the neighborhood of Fort Atkinson. This school was established by Street in 1835. When four yoke of oxen and two horses were brought to the farm near the Winnebago school, south of the Neutral Grounds, near the Mississippi river, the machinations of Street's enemies caused his removal, and it was not until 1837 that any progress was made on the farm. David Lowry reported the crops for 1838 as consisting of 500 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of potatoes and 1,500 bushels of turnips. This farm, and the school under Rev. Lowry, grew to considerable proportions and were of great value to the Indians. Lowry was removed by President Tyler in 1844, and James McGregor, Jr., became the agent at the station near Fort Atkinson. He found the Indians very generally under the influence of whiskey and in a state of great insubordination: they had largely exchanged their annuity provisions for liquor and had shot two cows and an ox not belonging to them. It was not until 1847 that the Winnebagoes were induced to sell their Iowa land, and it was not until 1849, eleven years after this county was organized, that the Winnebagoes were removed to their new home in Minnesota and Fort Atkinson was abandoned. While Fort Atkinson was not in this county and while, in 1837, the Indians had surrendered their rights over the Neutral Ground for the twenty miles just west of the Mississippi, nevertheless their presence and their depredations affected all the white settlers in this county during the first years of its history and greatly retarded the settlement of the north tier of townships. The fine military road, however, was a legacy of the Indian times which greatly aided in the prosperity of McGregor and Clayton at a later date.

## BLACK HAWK PURCHASE

All that part of Clayton county not in the Neutral Grounds was a part of the Black Hawk Purchase. At the beginning of the century, the Sacs and Foxes dominated western Illinois and southern Wisconsin and eastern Iowa. Their main village was at Rock Island, and Illinois was their favorite hunting ground. In 1804 certain chiefs of the nation entered into a treaty with the United States at St. Louis by which all their lands east of the Mississippi were ceded to the United States for a paltry sum. The government always contended that this was a bona fide treaty and insisted that the Indians live up to its terms. The Indians claimed that this treaty was signed by a few unauthorized chiefs who were purposely made drunken at the time, that the compensation was wholly inadequate, that the United States violated the treaty by the establishment of forts on the west side of the Mississippi and by taking possession of land in Illinois before the time set by the treaty, and that no such cession could have been made without the knowledge and consent of all of the chiefs.

It was dissatisfaction over this treaty, of 1804, which led Black Hawk and many of the Sacs and Foxes to join with the British during the war of 1812. In 1816, Black Hawk signed a treaty but again insisted that the terms were misrepresented and that he did not know he was to relinquish his village in Illinois. Matters came to a head in 1831 when Black Hawk undertook to reoccupy the old home in Illinois from which he had been driven. Regular soldiers and volunteers under General James took the Indians by surprise, defeated them and forced the treaty ceding all lands east of the Mississippi. Black Hawk was forced to cross to the west side of the river but, in 1832, he again entered Illinois at the head of a large number of braves. Black Hawk's army was well disciplined and he showed great generalship and succeeded in defeating the Americans under Major Stillman. This defeat caused great consternation throughout the entire country and a strong military force was sent against Black Hawk. In a fierce engagement, fought at Bad-axe, on the Rock river, the Indians were badly defeated, losing 300 killed. Black Hawk with a party of twenty braves retreated up the Wisconsin river, but the Winnebagoes, under the direction of the One-eyed Decorah, captured him and delivered him to his enemies. This ended the Black Hawk war and made effective the treaty of 1832.

In this Black Hawk war the whites lost about 200 killed and the Indians about 500, men, women, and children. Black Hawk was retained as a hostage and was in prison for several years, while Keokuk, who was hated and despised by Black Hawk's followers, was rewarded with a large tract of land known as "Keokuk's Reserve."

By the terms of the treaty of 1832, the Sacs and Foxes ceded a strip of land fifty miles wide, from the northern boundary of Missouri to the mouth of the Upper Iowa. The western boundary paralleled the Mississippi and the whole tract contained about 6,000,000 acres. The consideration was the payment of \$20,000 annually for thirty years and the payment of the indebtedness of the Indians to Davenport and Farnham, representatives of the American Fur Company. The

government also gave thirty-five beef cattle, twelve bushels of salt, thirty barrels of pork, fifty barrels of flour and six thousand bushels of corn to the women and children whose husbands and fathers had fallen in the Black Hawk war. This treaty was concluded at Davenport, September 21, 1832; it was ratified February 13, 1833, and took effect on the first of June following. It was in this wise that the United States completed its title to the ownership of what, later, became eastern Iowa. This was gained, first, by the Louisiana Purchase from the French, and second, by the Black Hawk Purchase, from the Indians.

#### SETTLEMENT OF IOWA

After years of strife and warfare the Indians had been subdued and had yielded the rich lands west of the Mississippi to their conquerors. It was known that these lands were to be had for the asking. Many adventurous spirits had already crossed the river, both as prospectors and as traders. They had brought back with them glowing accounts, which we know, now, were not exaggerated, of the rich and fertile soil, the abundance of animal life, the splendid forests and the beautiful streams.

What wonder is it then, that the eastern shores of the Mississippi, from Prairie du Chien to a point opposite Fort Madison, were lined with people eagerly awaiting the opening of the new territory. These men, many of them with their families, resided in temporary quarters ready for the rush to the Black Hawk strip. It was a time such as was later witnessed in Oklahoma when the lands of the Indian territory were opened for settlement; and, just as in those days, there were "Sooners" who could not wait for the formal opening and who wished to gain advantage by having the first choice of location. As soon as the treaty was made, in 1832, white settlers pushed their way across the river, although it was known that the treaty had not been ratified and would not go into effect until later. Many of these settlers made improvements, and deemed it a great hardship and injustice when the United States troops compelled them to recross the river. Moreover, none of these lands had been surveyed and those who first came were unable to make any definite location, and were mere squatters upon the land. In some counties this caused much trouble and led to organizations of squatters, pledged not to bid on each other's claims when they were sold as government lands. This coming of the settlers before the lands were to be relinquished under the terms of treaty, was very distasteful to the Indians, who regarded it as a breach of faith and who resented it by many overt acts against the settlers. At Dubuque particularly, was it difficult to restrain the whites who were eager to get possession of the veins of lead ore. As it was known that these mineral deposits also existed along Turkey river it is safe to presume that this region, also, was prospected over and possibly located upon, before the time fixed for settlement by the United States. This country has been the scene of many such wild rushes for land, but never was any country settled more quickly and by a better and more law-abiding people, than was eastern Iowa. )

It has been the effort of the preceding pages to follow the history



of Iowa, as a whole, and of Clayton county, in particular, from the date of its discovery by Marquette to the time when, through the processes of law and of nature and of warfare, it was ready to step forth into the glorious sunlight of American citizenship. It has been the effort to picture the virgin forests and the unruffled prairie and to recall to life the wandering redskin, the devout missionary, the crafty traders and the valiant men at arms who struggled, at this very outpost of civilization, to maintain the honor and glory of the flag for which they fought. Looking upon the quiet waters of the Mississippi, devoted now to ways of commerce and of peace, it is hard to realize that its current was reddened by the blood of Frenchman and Spaniard, Briton and American and that it was the scene of massacre and Indian treacheries: that grim forts frowned from its shores, that gunboats plowed its waters, that its hills resounded with the shouts of war parties and its bosom was bright with gaudily decked canoes. And, now, we have come to a time no less picturesque, and of much greater value to mankind. We are to see the log cabin where stood the wigwam, we are to hear the shouts of the woodsman take the place of the warhoop, the sound of the axe and the crash of falling trees, are to supplant the sharp crack of the Indian rifle, the grist mill is to stand upon the site of the beaver dam and out of the chaos and the wreckage of the past is to arise a great, intelligent and powerful civilization, born in hardship, nursed by toil, cultivated by self-denial, strengthened by adversity, matured by experience, cemented by the blood of Civil War and perfected by the love of God and country.

## CHAPTER II

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### LOG CABIN DAYS—1833-1840

PIONEERS—EARLIEST COUNTY HISTORY—FIRST COURTS—FIRST RECORDS—  
FIRST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—CENSUS OF 1838—FIRST ELECTION  
—BEGINNINGS—FIRST COUNTY SEAT—EARLY COURT SESSIONS—JUDGE  
WILSON.

#### PIONEERS OF CLAYTON COUNTY

THE first of what may be called the genuine American settlement of Clayton county occurred in the years 1832 and 1833. The Black Hawk Purchase was not open for legal settlement, and no claims could be definitely located until after the government survey which was completed in the fall of the latter year.

Before the treaty with Black Hawk was ratified, however, the eastern shore of the Mississippi was fairly lined with eager pioneers, excited by the reports of the richness of Iowa soil, and each desiring to obtain for himself the best location. These would-be settlers awaited at Prairie du Chien, at Cassville, which expected to become the great metropolis of Wisconsin, at Galena, at Rock Island and all down the river to the Missouri line.

It is impossible to believe that these men tamely abided on the east bank of the river with only the stream between them and the promised land, without making many trips of exploration. We have a record of a few of these incursions into Iowa soil, but as they were under the ban of the United States which wished to protect the Indians until the time agreed upon for them to leave their land, these bold, but peaceful, invaders took more pains to suppress the record of these trips than to make them public or to preserve them. There were clashes between troops and would-be settlers in the vicinity of Davenport and Dubuque. At these places the whites were driven back across the river in 1832 and the cabins which they had erected were destroyed. The white man who visited Clayton county in 1832 did so at the peril of his life, for he was subject to attack both by the troops and by the Indians who fiercely resented the coming of the white man.

It is for the above reasons that it is particularly hard to say who was the first settler in Clayton county. Those coming in 1832 gave the matter no publicity; and, in 1833, there was a grand rush of settlers to every portion of the Black Hawk Purchase, including Clayton county. We know that James L. Langworthy, later a prominent citizen of

Dubuque, crossed the river, in 1829, and, with two young Fox guides explored all the region between the Maquoketa and Turkey rivers, but he was attracted chiefly by the lead mines and for some time, Col. Zachary Taylor, later President of the United States, who was then stationed at Fort Crawford, had his hands full in keeping the white men from the Indian mines. Jefferson Davis, later the President of the Confederacy, was another officer, stationed at Fort Crawford, who patrolled this region to prevent white settlement. It is recorded of Davis that he was mild in his treatment of the settlers and was able, in most instances, to get them to move back across the river without resorting to force. While these clashes between the troops and settlers occurred chiefly at Dubuque it may be taken for granted that settlements were prevented in Clayton county as well.

In 1882, a very excellent history of Clayton county was published under the direction of a committee of the Pioneer Society of the county. The committee having this in charge consisted of such men as Samuel Murdock, Michael Uriell, Reuben Noble, Alva C. Rogers, Benjamin P. Rawson, James O. Crosby and James Schroeder. There were also a number of men interested in each township and this work may be taken as authority, except where the record brings new facts to light. It is a splendid commentary upon the value of such history that no copies of this work, now thirty-four years old, are for sale and that they can only be borrowed upon binding promise of return. There are but comparatively few copies of this book in existence and it is, frankly, one of the purposes of this later day history to preserve, in new form, the best of the old history and to complete it and bring it down to date. No apologies are offered, therefore, for quoting this older history freely and for using it as authority.

There is much question as to who was the first actual settler of Clayton county. There seems to be no question but that the first settlement was made in the vicinity of Millville on the Turkey river, and the date is 1833. The history of 1882 credits William W. Wayman as the first permanent settler and states that he settled on what was afterwards known as the Lander farm, on the north side of Turkey river, about four miles from its mouth, nearly opposite Millville. It is stated that Robert Hetfield and W. W. Wayman located here and that Wm. D. Grant located nearby, on what was afterward known as the Pearson farm. It is stated, however, that previously there had been a cabin at the mouth of Turkey river. This cabin was used as a ferry house and the name of the owner is not known.

Senator Robert Quigley, of McGregor, is authority for the statement that his father, Joseph B. Quigley, migrated from Amherst, Ohio, and reached Cassville in 1832, and that in that year he crossed the Mississippi and prospected for a location near Millville. In 1833, he located at Millville, having with him R. H. Hetfield, Dan Beasley and William Grant. The four men worked together and Quigley and Grant being fine mechanics they soon had a log cabin erected and a sawmill in operation on the Turkey river. Later a grist mill was built. Mr. Quigley returned for a brief time to Cassville and then came to his new cabin home bringing his young wife with him and together they shared the many hardships of the pioneer days. Among



those who settled near him at that time were Col. Landers, Capt. Springer, Henry Redmon, and Solomon Wadsworth.

Eliphalet Price first came to the county in 1834, returning in 1835 with C. S. Edson, the first surveyor of the county. In 1836, the erection of a sawmill on the Little Turkey is told, built by a Mr. Finley, and Luther Patch is mentioned as the sawyer. Thomas Clinton, and Martin, Moses and Jacob Van Syckle came to the county, in 1833, settling in Mallory township. Cyrus Henderson was also one of the early settlers, coming to Clayton county, in January, 1835, and settling in Millville township. His brother John who accompanied him to this county, in 1835, died in 1836 and is said to have been the first white man buried in Clayton county. Among the men who arrived in 1836, and who left a deep impress upon the history of the county were the following: Dr. Frederick Andros. Dr. Andros was the first settler in Garnavillo township. He was a native of Massachusetts and came here from Dubuque. He resided at Garnavillo until 1865 when he removed to McGregor. He was a strong and capable man and a skillful physician and his name will appear many times as we proceed with this history. Another man destined to be prominent in the county was John W. Gillett. Elisha Boardman, the founder of Elkader, came to the county, in 1836, together with Horace D. Bronson, and a Mr. Hastings. Hastings began the erection of a sawmill on Otter creek near the present town of Elgin, but he was soon driven away by the hostile Winnebagoes and left the country. Boardman staked a claim and built a cabin where the depot at Elkader now stands. Here he lived with his intimate friend H. D. Bronson for a number of years. The township of Boardman is named in his honor and he and his descendants were honored men in this county for many years.

Willard Knight was another of the strong men who came in 1836, as was a Mr. McMaster who came to the county with Gillett and was in partnership with him for several years. Samuel B. Peck was a pioneer of 1836, settling in Mallory township on the Turkey river, at what was later known as Peck's Ferry, as he ran the first flat-boat across the Turkey river at that point. Levi Springer was one of the pioneers of Millville township, coming in 1836. He was prominent in the early history and was one of those who enlisted in Captain Parker's company of mounted infantry which was stationed at Fort Atkinson, during the Mexican war, to take the place of the regulars who were sent to the front, and to guard against Indian depredations. Jacob Springer also came to Millville township, in 1837, and was also a member of Captain Parker's company.

The year 1838 witnessed the coming of additional pioneers. Among them were John Downie who settled in Boardman township and who was one of the first county commissioners. J. A. McClellan was an 1838 arrival. He lived near Garnavillo and had been a captain in the War of 1812, serving under Gen. Harrison in the battles of Tippecanoe and Fort Meigs. He served a stormy year as clerk of the District Courts in 1847. Joel Post and Elias Meisner settled in Read township, in 1838.

It was in the spring of 1839 that there came to this county a family destined to have a powerful influence upon this history. This was the

family of Mrs. Mary Uriell. Mrs. Uriell was a brave Irish widow and with her three sons, Patrick, Michael and John, she came to America with bold confidence in God, in the opportunities of the new land and in the strong right arms of herself and her stalwart boys. The descendants of this notable family are now scattered throughout Clayton county and are numbered among our best citizens. Michael Uriell was a powerful factor in the later history of the county. Asa W. Gifford and his wife, Hulda, came to Boardman township, in 1839, bringing with them their son G. L. Gifford who was to become a prominent citizen of Littleport. Another man destined to become prominent and very dearly beloved, who came to the county in 1839, was Robert R. Read of whom we shall hear much later and a sketch of whose life will appear in this volume. William Schulte was among the earliest of the German pioneers settling in Garnavillo township in 1839; he himself was prominent in the affairs of the county until his death in 1878 and his descendants are among our honored citizens. Allen E. Wanzer also came in 1839 and established himself on the farm which he called "Bogus Hollow". He was better known as a landlord than as a farmer, however, and he was "Mine host" at the Banfill Hotel at Garnavillo and at "Father's House" at McGregor, and his taverns were noted for good cheer.

In 1834, Iowa was a part of Michigan Territory. In 1836, it was a part of Wisconsin Territory and at this time a census of the territory was ordered. As Clayton was the northern-most county, all the unorganized territory was included, in this census, under the head of Clayton county, and in all the vast territory which was attached to Clayton county for governmental purposes and which extended north to the British boundary and west to the Rockies, the total population was given as three hundred and fifty-four. Among the other settlers prior to 1840 may be named J. W. Jones and Henry Redmon, Isaac Preston, Cap. Park, Robert Campbell, George Jones, Warren Cooley, Henry Sanders, Ambrose Kennedy, John Griffith, Edward Dickens, Jack Cortright, whose murder was one of the first crimes to stir the county, Richard Holtzbecker, who, as sheriff, was killed in a duel with James A. McClellan at Prairie la Porte; Frank Emerson, Dudley Peck, James W. Walker, Herman Greybill, the pioneer of Prairie la Porte and the Olmstead Brothers who were the pioneers of Monona, and D. F. Bickel, Herman Schnsider, Conrad Helwig, Henry Froelich, Conrad Hartwig, Charles Hemple, pioneers of Giard township.

These men and others whose names are not now known, together with their families, constituted the *dramatis personae* of the great miracle play by which the wilderness was transformed into the Clayton county as we know it today.

One of the earliest settlers in Iowa speaks in this wise of the characteristics of the pioneers: "Mostly young men, without families, who have left the paternal roof in the older states in search of homes on the frontier, there to work out their own way in life's battles and toils. The young pioneer is not encumbered with extra baggage; with a gun and knife, a bake-pan, tin cup, some corn meal and bacon, all packed on his back, he explores the country on foot. He selects his claim, builds

a rude log cabin, cooks his coarse food and freely shares his scanty supply with any traveler who came along."

#### EARLIEST COUNTY HISTORY

There is practically no written history of Clayton county prior to 1838. All that we have are the reminiscences of early settlers which will be given in added chapters, and these reminiscences are, with the best of intent, apt to be contradictory and confused, for no two men see events alike nor is the human memory infallible.

*First Courts.*—During these first years Iowa passed from the control of Michigan Territory to that of Wisconsin Territory and in 1838, the Governor appointed John W. Griffith, as sheriff of Clayton county with instructions to summon jurors for a term of the District Court to be held at Prairie la Porte, Clayton county, Wisconsin Territory, on May 4, 1838. Hon. Charles Dunn presided at this first court of justice in Clayton county. William H. Banks was attorney for the United States and James Churchman was district attorney. F. Andros acted as clerk and was later appointed Clerk of the District Court. The grand jurors were Elisha Boardman, foreman, Ava Dunn, William D. Grant, C. R. Hill, W. W. Wayman, Allen Carpenter, H. D. Bronson, William Rowan, Luther Mead, Daniel Bugley, G. W. Jones, S. Wadsworth, H. Redman, Edward Dickens, David Springer, Dean Gay, and Eliphalet Price. The petit jurors were William McDowell, Ambrose Kennedy, A. S. Cooley, Nathan Springer, Andrew Whitaker, Martin VanSickle, Herman Graybill, Mathew Peck, Baldwin Olmstead, David Hastings, Willard Knight, Eliot Adams, William Walker, Samuel Goss, C. S. Edson, Samuel McMasters, D. C. VanSickle, William Harper, William Beasley, John Gillett, H. T. Lander, Dudley Peck, I. H. Preston, and Robert Hatfield. These comprised nearly all of the mature and reputable population of the county and there is little wonder that there was no business to be transacted, except to draw the necessary warrants for the payment of those in attendance.

Several of the pioneers did not respond to the summons of the sheriff, among them being James Henderson, Nahum Dudley, Robert Campbell, and James Brown. These men were solemnly fined ten dollars each for contempt of court, which fines were as solemnly remitted at the September, 1838, term of court, over which Judge T. S. Wilson presided. This was the first court held in this county after the territory of Iowa was formed.

#### FIRST BOOK OF RECORD

In the vault of the county auditor there is an old leather bound volume still well preserved but with pages yellow with age. It contains the first record of the county commissioners of Clayton county and the first entry is dated at Prairie la Porte October 15, 1838, and merely states that a meeting of the commissioners was held.

#### FIRST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William D. Grant, Robert Campbell, and George Culver were the first county commissioners for Clayton county. Their first work was the



appointment of John W. Griffith as assessor and of George W. Jones, Allen Carpenter and Baldwin Olmstead as "rode" commissioners. For election purposes, precincts were organized, the first embracing practically what is now Buena Vista township, so that this may rightly be considered the first township in the county, although it was then unnamed. Elections in this precinct were to be held at the house of Henry Holtzbecker. The second precinct included the present townships of Millville, Mallory, Elk, Volga, Jefferson, Read, Garnavillo and part of Clayton and the elections were to be held at the house of Herman Graybill, at Prairie la Porte. The third district included the north part of Clayton township extending west to include Farmersburg, Wagner and Marion townships and thence north and east along the line of the Black Hawk Purchase to the Mississippi river thus making it include all of the north part of the county, not included in the Neutral Ground, and a portion of what is now Allemaquee county. Elections were to be held at the home of Jesse Daudly. The fourth election precinct embraced the six townships in the southwest part of the county and elections were to be held at Boardman's Mill. Ambrose Kennedy (or Canada, as it is spelled in the original record), was appointed commissioner of common schools for the first precinct, Herman Graybill for the second, Jesse Daudly for the third and John Downie for the fourth. This meeting of the commissioners saw the county fairly organized; court had been held, there was a sheriff and an assessor and provisions had been made both for the holding of elections and for schools.

#### CENSUS OF 1838

This meeting of the commissioners was held subsequent to the taking of the first census of the county by J. W. Griffith. According to this census, taken in May, 1838, there were 181 males and 93 females living in Clayton county, giving a total of 274. The following is the list of the heads of the families and male adults, and this must be taken as the most authentic statement of the pioneers living in Clayton county at that time. The list is as follows:

J. W. Griffith, Robert Campbell, Elias Miller, Dudley Peck, David Springer, Luther Patch, Eliphalet Price, Henry Redman, Thomas VanSyckle, S. Wadsworth, James Henderson, George W. Jones, Luther Mead, H. T. Lander, S. L. Tainter, A. S. Cooley, A. Kennedy, William Harper, C. S. Edson, Herman Graybill, William Warner, Patton McMullen, Robert Hatfield, Reuben Decus, H. D. Bronson, Frederick Andros, S. McMasters, Allen Carpenter, David Lowry, Bradford Porter, Jacob Lemmons, Henry Johnson, John Frost, Henry Warner, Jesse Daudley, E. Boardman, William W. Wayman, Nathan Dudley, E. R. Hill, Baldwin Olmstead, D. C. VanSyckle, William D. Grant, Samuel Johnson, Mr. McCraney, E. E. Oliver, William Walker, Jacob F. Redman, F. L. Rodolph, Charles Latrance, S. La Point, Peter La Point, Mr. Burns.

This census was followed by an election Sept. 10, 1838. There were two polling places, one at Winchester, at the mouth of the Turkey river and one at Prairie la Porte. The first county officers were, Commissioners, William D. Grant, Robert Campbell and George

Culver; Treasurer, Ambrose Kennedy; Recorder, Frederick Andros; Sheriff and Assessor, John W. Griffith; Probate Judge, S. H. McMasters; Supreme Court Commissioner, William W. Wayman; Surveyor, C. S. Edson; Coroner, J. B. Quigley. Concerning the first election Hon. Eliphalet Price, many years later gave the following amusing account:

#### FIRST ELECTION

The first election held in that part of Dubuque county now known as the County of Clayton, took place on the first Monday in September, 1836, at the residence of Robert Hatfield, on the Turkey river, which residence was situated about three miles from the mouth of the river, looming up with log cabins' stateliness, solitary and alone, in the very heart of the town of Winchester. Among the many proprietors of the town of Winchester, was the Hon. John S. Horner, who was at that time acting Governor of Wisconsin, whose boundaries then embraced the present State of Iowa. At this election a delegate to Congress and five members of the Territorial Legislature were to be chosen. The candidates for Congress were George Meeker and George W. Jones. Both of these persons resided upon the east side of the Mississippi. The judges of the election were Edward Dickens, John H. Griffith and Henry Redman: the clerks were William W. Wayman and Eliphalet Price. It was believed that every voter residing at that time in what is now known as the County of Clayton, was there on that day, and exercised his right of suffrage. The whole number of votes cast was thirty-one: of these Meeker received twenty-eight and Jones three. Nearly every voter was dressed in buckskin, and appeared upon the ground with a rifle upon his shoulder: and of the whole number that voted, but seven had ever exercised that right on any previous occasion.

#### BEGINNINGS

Whatever may be said of the voters, they at least knew what they wanted and the elections were entirely nonpartisan. At a called meeting of the commissioners held in November a tax was levied, bonds of county officers approved and the following election officers appointed for the ensuing year: David Springer, H. T. Lander, Henry Holtzbecker, for precinct one. John Gillett, Patton McMullen and Baldwin Olmstead for number two. Jesse Daudley, Allen Carpenter and C. S. Edson for number three. No election officers were appointed for precinct four.

At the meeting of the board held in January, 1839, two important actions were taken. What are now known as Elk and Volga townships were set aside as election precinct number five, elections to be held at the house of George Culver and the officers to be George Culver, W. W. Wayman and Baldwin Olmstead. Horace Bronson was made a judge in precinct two to replace Olmstead who was in the new fifth precinct. The second, and more important, act was the ordering of the road commissioners to meet with the road commissioners of Dubuque county at the home of Martin VanSickle to lay out the territorial road where it crossed the county line. Dean Gay acted

as clerk of the board at this session. His name does not appear in the census list of 1838 and he is rarely mentioned by the pioneers, although he seems to have been clerk of the board for a short time. We know, however, that he was at one time a sergeant in the regular army and stationed at Fort Crawford.

The first license for the sale of ardent liquors in this county was issued by Dean Gay, as clerk, to Peter Legree on March 19, 1839, and was granted "according to the last act of the Wisconsin Legislature". Clayton county was at that time a part of Iowa Territory and not of Wisconsin and it is an open question as to whether Gay did not know of this, or whether, in the absence of an Iowa statute governing, he was forced to use that of Wisconsin as the best that he could do.

April 8, 1839, the board met and appointed Nathan Dudley, assessor; it also ordered the road commissioners to meet in June and locate a road from the south line of the county to Prairie du Chien, and C. S. Edson was ordered to survey the same. This was the first road ordered by the county commissioners.

On the 24th day of May, 1839, William D. Grant and Robert Campbell met, as commissioners, to survey land for the location of the county seat. During the remainder of the official year no official business is recorded, save the issuance of licenses to James A. McClellan for the sale of groceries and liquors, "not less quantity than a quart" at Prairie la Porte. Fifteen dollars was the sum charged. The first ferry licenses were issued by this board. The first issued was to William Walker to "keep a ferry across from the mouth of Turkey river to Cassville for the sum of \$5 for one year." The second was issued to Louis Massey of St. Peters "to keep a ferry across the Mississippi one mile above Fort Snelling, for one year for the sum of \$10." This license was issued on the petition of F. Andros and it is probable that the party was unknown to the commissioners and that Dr. Andros acted for him. This is one of the acts of the commissioners which gave ground for the erroneous belief that at one time Clayton county included a vast territory within its boundaries. It has already been pointed out, however, that this territory was simply "attached" for governing purposes and was not included in the county limits.

At an August session, Herman Graybill was licensed to keep a tavern and grocery at Prairie la Porte for the sum of \$55 a year. In the meantime L. D. Tompkins had taken the place of Dean Gay as clerk of the board and issued this license.

#### FIRST COUNTY SEAT

An election having been held, the new board, consisting of Patton McMullen, H. T. Lander and W. W. Wayman met for organization on August 12, 1839. Prior to this time the record simply shows that the board met at Prairie la Porte, but at this time the following entry is found, "the commissioners agree with Herman Graybill to furnish a room for holding court and rooms for the grand and petit juries for the sum of \$5 per day." Thus Graybill's tavern seems to have been the first county seat. At the September session there are evidences of some dissension between the board and the clerk, for Charles E. Bensell was



appointed clerk "during the option of the commissioners;" and L. B. Thompkins writes his resignation into the record. The new board appointed Baldwin Olmstead, William Walker and Herman Graybill as road commissioners, and Ambrose Kennedy, Herman Graybill, Horace Mallory, John Downie and Jesse Doudley as school commissioners and election officers. In October, 1839, a road was ordered from "the Colony to the sawmill on Elk Creek, thence to Elisha Boardman's, thence to the territorial road," and "from the mouth of the Turkey river to Millville or Price's Mill," and the commissioners were ordered to meet at the house of William Walker to carry out these orders. Among the first roads of the county was one from Prairie la Porte to Hatfield's Mill and another "from Prairie la Porte to the nearest and best point to intersect the territorial road toward Turkey river."

The vexed question of the county seat concerned the board at its session in October, 1839, and notices were ordered posted for "letting out the building of a court house and other buildings at Prairie la Porte, the county seat," also a deed was drawn up between the county commissioners and Herman Graybill and John Meyers, "the latter relinquishing all their right title and claim to their claim to Prairie la Porte." The board adjourned to meet October 19, for the purpose "of letting out buildings." At the October 19, meeting, however, all of the above actions concerning county buildings were rescinded, and in lieu thereof, the commissioners decided to "meet at the Washington Hotel in the town of Dubuque, on Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of October, for the purpose of proving the pre-emption right to the northeast quarter of section seventeen, township 92, range 2, west."

The board made the intended journey to Dubuque and the following entry is made of the Dubuque meeting: "Agreeable to previous notice the board of county commissioners met at Dubuque, October 24, 1839; present, H. T. Lander, W. W. Wayman and Patton McMullen. The board having organized, proceeded to land office and proved pre-emption to N. E. Qt. of S. 17, R. 2, W. Town 92 north, for the benefit of Clayton County, the above being fractional quarter of 94 acres. Amount paid for receipt of land office \$118.62."

The board met at Prairie la Porte October 29, but owing to the absence of one of the commissioners, county seat matters were not taken up, although other business was transacted, including the establishment of the following roads, "commencing at Prairie la Porte and running to the south end of Prairie la Porte, then crossing the creek and running to the bluff, then down the bluff to the deep hollow, then up the deep hollow to third ravine, then up the third ravine to the territorial road," and, also, a road with an equally technical description as follows, "commencing at the mouth of Turkey river and following the bank of Turkey river to the mouth of Bluebelt to intersect the territorial road, then following the territorial road until back of Holtzberger's, then to near the mouth of Little Turkey, then up the mouth of Little Turkey until up to Price's new house." It was also ordered that each "free male white citizen" be compelled to work five days on the roads.

At a meeting, November 12, H. D. Bronson was appointed clerk,

vice Charles E. Bensell, resigned ; C. S. Edson was employed "to survey the county land into town lots and to be to all expense for survey and drawing three plats for sum of \$150." At this session, also, is found the first reference to a Justice of the Peace, the bond of Henry H. Sibley being "excepted" and filed.

The board was in session four days in December, 1839. The commissioners were allowed \$3 per day for three days, for their trip to Dubuque, together with their expenses, making a grand total of \$51. Relative to the county seat it was "ordered that there be a court house built on the public square, at Prairie la Porte, by the first of September, next, size and quality of building to be hereafter mentioned ; also that the sale of town lots take place on the first Monday in April next ; also, that the furnishing materials, and building of said court house on the public square in Prairie la Porte to be finished by the fifteenth of September. Resolved, further, that the sale and building be advertised in the Iowa News for three months." This ended the work of the county board for the first decennial and the next session was held January 6, 1840.

#### EARLY COURT SESSIONS

In the meantime other branches of government had not been idle. In April, 1839, a term of the District Court was held at which Edwin Reeves acted as United States Attorney and Hiram Loomis as Marshal. This was the first term of court at which actual business was transacted. The first cause called was an attachment suit of Herman Graybill vs. Edward E. Oliver, and judgment was rendered by default. The second was that of W. W. Chapman vs. H. T. Lander for trespass, this also went by default. The first divorce case was that of Thomas Walker vs. Mary Walker. As the defendant was a non-resident, notice was ordered published in the Iowa News of Dubuque, which was the only newspaper in all this region at the time. The petit jurors for this term were Robert Hetfield, Eli Carlin, William Deans, Patton McMullen, David Hastings, E. Boardman, Samuel Peck, A. S. Cooley, H. Redman, Martin VanSickle, James Brown, James Henderson, L. B. Thompkins, William W. Wayman, Solomon Wadsworth, William Harper, and Michael Stents. The panel being incomplete the sheriff called in the following by-standers to complete it : E. Price, H. T. Lander, E. R. Hill, C. S. Edson and John Wilkinson. The first indictment returned by a Clayton county grand jury was against Daniel Beezley. The case was continued and the defendant held under bond of \$400 furnished by Joseph B. Quigley. The first jury trial was in the case of C. M. Price vs. H. Graybill, an attachment suit. This case the jury decided in favor of Price. Pierre la Grois was tried before a jury for selling liquor to the Indians, was found guilty and fined \$80 and costs. The case against Daniel Beezley was also tried before a jury and Beezley was found "not guilty." At this term of court, also, James Crawford was admitted to the bar on motion of J. B. Barrett. Mr. Crawford never made his home in this county.

## JUDGE T. S. WILSON

Judge Thomas S. Wilson, who presided over the early courts of Clayton county was the first territorial judge for Iowa, and he presided over the courts here until 1847, when the judicial district was changed by the constitution of 1846. In 1852 he was elected judge of the ninth judicial district which did not include Clayton county. He served in the legislature in 1866 and 1868 and died in Dubuque at a ripe old age. He was an excellent judge and his honesty and just decisions did much to establish confidence in the court and to instil respect for law in Clayton county.





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## CHAPTER III

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### CLEARINGS—1840-1850

NEWCOMERS—COUNTY GOVERNMENT—FERRY LICENSES—REBECCA CLUES  
—W. W. WAYMAN—BOARD OF 1841-2—ELECTION OF 1842—FOUNDING  
OF JACKSONVILLE—PROBATE COURT—DISTRICT COURT—EARLY ELEC-  
TION PRECINCTS—BEGINNINGS OF GUTTENBERG—COUNTY JAIL—GAR-  
NAVILLO—HARTGE MURDER—COUNTY AFFAIRS IN 1847—TEN TOWN-  
SHIPS NAMED—FIRST COUNTY SEAT ELECTION, 1849—COURTS—JUDGE  
JAMES GRANT—COUNTY IN 1850.

WITH the year 1840 we have passed the crudest of the pioneer days. There were many who felt themselves at this time to be old settlers. Certain men were rising above the level of their fellows, showing by their ability and energy that they were to be the leaders of the county. During the decade from 1840 to 1850 the county was to see many changes. During the first of this decade emigration continued as it had, but with diminishing volume. In 1838 the population was 274, in 1840, 1044, in 1844 it had increased but little, the population being 1200. In 1846 it was 1500. At this time began the early German immigration and, by 1847, the population had grown to 2176, by 1849 it was 3000, and in 1850 it had increased to 3873. The first period of what may be called purely American settlement, although there were many foreigners included, lasted from 1833 to 1846, after which the county underwent a transformation by the infusion of much German blood.

The newness of the first period with which we have already dealt is shown by the fact that William Grant, one of the first commissioners, and John Downie, also one of the first officials, did not become citizens of the United States until June 27, 1842.

#### THE NEWCOMERS

Among the newcomers during the first part of this period who afterward became prominent and respected citizens were Douglas Peck, noted as a hunter, who came in 1841; William Schulte, who settled at Garnavillo in the same year, and who was one of the very first German immigrants. He was noted for his great physical strength and he and his sons were prominent throughout the history of the county. John S.

Lewis, an inventor, as well as a farmer, settled in Volga township, in 1842. Henry Graybill came as a lad to Prairie la Porte the same year. S. H. F. Schulte, another German, destined to be prominent, was born in Garnavillo township, in 1842. Frederick Hartge and Asa Gifford and his son George were also among the newcomers in 1842, Hartge locating on the present site of Elkport. About this time Michael and John Stence, Joel Post, John Roberts, H. H. Singer, P. R. Moore and Alex Paul joined the settlement near Boardman's Mill. Cyrus Henderson, Robert Bunker, William Foster and Joseph Heinrich were Buena Vista pioneers. Joseph Hewett began trade with the Winnebagoes on the Cass township line, in 1844. Orin Keeler and James Cowell established a ferry at the foot of Sny Magill and endeavored to establish a town, christened Keeleroy, in 1846. Phillip Cox, who gave his name to Cox creek, was an 1842 settler, remaining only long enough to fasten his name upon the stream and township. A German family by the name of Falldorf came to this township in the same year, but were driven out by the Indians and endured many hardships. The place of their residence is still known as Dutch Hollow. William Bente and Captain Douglas Quigley settled in Cox Creek in 1844 and 1845, respectively. In 1843, Garnavillo became the home of three men who proved themselves to be among the giants of Clayton county. These men were Samuel Murdock, Reuben Noble, and E. H. Williams. James Watson, who later donated to the county the present site of Garnavillo, also came to the county about this time. In Giard township the settlers during this period from 1840 to 1845 were James Tapper, Samuel A. Goth, William Clement, Hugh Graham, and Ira B. Briggs.

The settlement of Lodomillo township did not begin until 1844 when a Mr. Lyon settled on section 26. The real pioneers of what became known as the "Yankee Settlement" were Horace Beavis, Isaac Preston, and William C. and F. C. Madison, who settled there in 1845. P. P. Olmstead and David Olmstead were the first white settlers in Monona township, settling near the Indian village connected with the government station. S. Cummings, John Rowe, A. T. Depew and C. B. Gray followed them in 1841-42. Among the other settlers in this period in Monona township were John Roberts, E. Bonnel, E. D. Button, P. R. Moore, John Zimmerman, John Bull, C. B. Guy, a blacksmith, Robert Tucker and Mr. Bushnell and family. Rev. Father Joseph Cretin, afterward bishop of St. Paul, found a sufficient number of his faith in the county so that he made missionary visits through the county, holding services at the homes of church members, in 1841-42. John Paddleford and his brother Leverett and John Mayville made their first visit to Sperry township in 1842 and Mr. Paddleford made it his permanent residence in 1845.

#### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The county commissioners with H. D. Bronson as clerk resumed its sessions in January, 1840, and it is noted that Isaac Preston was granted a license for "keeping grocery," and that E. Price was paid for services for "the organization of county commissioners, August 12, 1839." The board considered plans for the new court house, but in the

meantime continued to rent quarters of Mr. Graybill. Adjournment was taken on March 30, to meet at H. D. Bronson's, at Prairie la Porte.

On April 8, 1840, the board met and "ordered that the sale of lots of the county land is open and sales commenced and stand until 5 o'clock P. M. and that the sales be registered." On the next day the sale of lots made to G. M. Price were approved and, from the proceeds, the commissioners drew for their expenses for the trip to Dubuque, with 20 per cent interest. Robert Hetfield was appointed public agent for disposing of the land at the county seat.

On May 12 the contract for the new court house was let to Bronson and Jones.

A bond was drawn up on which William D. Grant was security. The county was to pay \$2,500, "at 15 per cent interest from the time the same notes are drawn and not paid." The building was to be erected by November 1. The first bill for a coroner's inquest was allowed William Walker, Esq., at the July session of the board; this for holding inquest on the body of a person, unknown, drowned in the Mississippi river. At this time, July, 1840, the old election precinct number three was discontinued and a new precinct formed which included what are now Giard, Mendon, Farmersburg and the north half of Clayton townships. There seems to have been no provision for an election in the four northwest townships of the county. Showing the wide jurisdiction of Clayton county at this time are the following entries, "Ordered that the settlement at the outlet of Lake Pepin be composed as an election precinct, to be called the sixth precinct and that Charles Sweet, Oliver Cratt and James Wells be appointed first judges and election held at the home of Oliver Cratt."

A similar order was issued for an election precinct at the mouth of the St. Peters river to be known as precinct seven. At this term Asa Gifford was appointed a road commissioner "in the place of S. B. Olmstead who refuses to act."

The necessity for a building for the safe-keeping of records was felt and the board contracted with Robert Hetfield for the delivery of the "stuff" necessary, and with David Hastings for the erection of a building, 14 feet square, for this purpose. Horace D. Bronson resigned as clerk of the board and Alfred Northan succeeded him. J. W. Griffith was allowed \$40 for assessing Clayton county for the year of 1840.

*Ferry Licenses*—Ferry license was granted to Thomas P. Park to keep a ferry across Turkey river at Mead's Branch. The license fee was \$2. And the tolls were fixed as follows: "For each person, 12½ cents; each horse or mule, 25 cents; wheel carriages, each wheel 12½ cents; every head of cattle, 25 cents; swine or sheep, 6¼ cents; every cwt. of freight over 5 cwt., 5 cents."

A license was also issued to William Walker at this session for a ferry at or near the mouth of Turkey river across the Mississippi river, the fee was \$5 per annum and the rates just double those allowed on the Turkey. At an adjourned meeting, held October 26, 1840, at the house of Herman Graybill, the following bonds were approved: Frederick Andros, Recorder; Ambrose Kennedy, Treasurer; William Sackett and David Springer, Justices of the Peace; William Walker,



Coroner, and David Hastings and Thomas P. Park, Constables, and Edwin Lyon, Assessor. On the next day the bonds of Nathan Springer as Constable and Robert Campbell as Justice were approved. H. C. Munche was allowed \$31.50 for services as messenger from the judges of election at the St. Peter precinct. At the October election Elisha Boardman succeeded Patton McMullen as a member of the board and he acted as a commissioner for the first time on December 31, 1840. In January, 1841, Eliphalet Price was appointed clerk of the board and Daniel Beezley, road supervisor, was instructed "to call upon the citizens in his district to work a good wagon route up the hill from Mr. Lander's on the territorial road." In February the assessor was ordered "to assess the people of St. Peters and all intermediate points between the county seat and that place." A road was ordered at this session to commence "at the termination of the Dubuque road at the Colony from thence to Elk creek, through the Boardman settlement to intersect the territorial road to Prairie du Chien. Evidently the court house was not completed, for quarters were rented from Herman Graybill for the year 1841.

*Rebecca Clues*—It is at about this time that we find the first of a long series of appropriations for the care of Rebecca Clues who was the first "county charge." W. W. Wayman was a member of the board and it is said that he was responsible for her coming to the county and just how it happened that he allowed her to be maintained at county expense is not explained. Eliphalet Price, who did more than any other man to preserve the history of the county and who wrote in a delightful vein that was real literature, has this to say of Rebecca Clues: "She was for many years a county charge, and all this time passed for a white person. Formerly she was a dark mulatto, and the slave and property of Governor Clarke of Missouri who emancipated her after her change of color. This change of color from a mulatto to a white took place immediately after her recovery from a severe attack of billious fever. She was the head, or principal, cook in the family of Governor Clarke, who lived in great style in St. Louis, and was the owner of many slaves. As a cook she had few superiors. When she first came to the mines she could speak the French and Spanish languages as well as the English, but in after years she lost all knowledge of the French and Spanish, and began to speak the English with the Negro dialect. Aunt Becky, as she was called, had experienced many of the vicissitudes of frontier life. She had been a slave and a free woman; a mulatto and a white woman; she could speak at one time three languages; she was the first woman that came into Clayton county, and, after a residence here of twenty-four years, was the first woman in the county who died a pauper, after having attained the age of about eighty years."

Wayman himself seems to have been an odd character, although he was much respected and did good work as a member of the board. Relative to him the history of 1882 speaks as follows:

*W. W. Wayman*—Colonel William W. Wayman, the first settler of Volga township and Clayton county, was a native of New Hampshire, a man of liberal education and polished manners. In his habits and the expression of his face, it was easy to detect one of those

freaks of human nature that occasionally appear among the descendants of the pilgrims of New England, disturbing the purity of the Saxon blood by portraying in lineament and contour that of the Narragansett of the Wampanoag. Among white men he was reticent, watchful and restless; in the society of the Indian he was authoritative, stern and commanding. He never performed any manual labor other than that which pertained to the indoor affairs of his house. The Indian and the half-breed regarded him as a mysterious being. They would toil and labor for him without any other reward than the pleasure of being near his person. The largest portion of his lifetime had been spent upon the frontier, in the society of the Indian and the hunter, and yet he could never be prevailed upon to give any information concerning the manners, customs or traditions of the Indians. Intimacy and social intercourse with him for many years upon the border only seemed to render more impenetrable the shield of mystery that he had woven around the events of his life. He was the father of a half-breed daughter, whom he educated at Prairie du Chien. Little more is known of this strange life, whose story died with him.

Hon. Eliphalet Price gives an account of the circumstances attending his death: "In the fall of 1848, about the midnight hour of a dreary night, our dog drove an Indian to the top of a hayrack that stood leaning against the dooryard fence. Upon going to him he handed us the following communication: 'Come quick; I am dying; Ann will give you my keys. W. W. Wayman.' We hastened to him, but he was dead when we reached his residence. The keys unlocked, in part, the history of a strange, adventurous life, and told us that his name was William Wallace Hutcherson, a descendant of the Mayflower." Colonel Wayman, however, was hardly a settler of Volga township. He was an Indian trader, and kept a trading post at the mouth of the Volga, on the Turkey.

*Board of 1841*—During the year 1841 a license was issued for a ferry across Turkey river at Millville and a road from Millville was located on the most direct route to Dubuque. At a meeting held April 5, 1841, which was also attended by Henry Holtzbecker, who had succeeded John W. Griffith as sheriff, a ferry license was issued to Thomas P. Burnett and Alexander McGregor, "to keep a ferry across the Mississippi river from Cooley de Soo to Prairie du Chien." This license was for two years at \$5 per annum and rates were as follows: Single man, 25 cents; wheel carriage, per wheel, 25 cents; horned cattle, per head, 50 cents; horses, 50 cents; hogs, 12½ cents; sheep and goats, 6¼ cents; mules, 50 cents; freight, not contained in vehicle, 12½ cents per cwt. The first mention of a county bridge is on April 6, 1841, when it is ordered that "Eliphalet Price be allowed the sum of \$45 for building a bridge across Little Turkey river at Millville and the same bridge be accepted as the property of Clayton county."

A new election precinct was created, elections to be held at the house of David Lowrie with H. D. Bronson, John B. Thomas and David Lowrie as judges. This precinct was at the "new mission" and the bounds were designated "by the bounds of the Neutral Grounds." The session of April 28, 1841, was evidently a heated affair for the



following entries are found: "Whereas the assessor (Edwin Lyon) of the county of Clayton has neglected and refused to perform his duty as assessor, and a statute of Iowa provides that the board of commissioners shall fill such a vacancy by appointment, be it, therefore, ordered that Thomas P. Park be appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the neglect and refusal of such assessor and that the assessment roll be delivered to the said Thomas P. Park for 1841." And below this comes the ominous entry: "Ordered that Daniel Justice be fined the sum of \$2 for contempt of court."

The commissioners were evidently subjected to considerable criticism for, on July 6, 1841, the following entry was made: "We the undersigned, through the medium of the records of the board of county commissioners, do declare and make known that we herewith resign, each of us, the office of county commissioners of Clayton county—reserving the right to perform the duties of said office until our successors are duly elected and qualified for said office according to law." Signed, H. T. Lander, Elisha Boardman, W. W. Wayman. The record book now contains the bonds of William Weatherwax, William H. Post, W. W. Wayman, David Springer and James A. McClellan as Justices of the Peace, Graham Thorne, constable and Ambrose Kennedy, Treasurer. The report of commissioners appointed by the legislature to locate a territorial road between Iowa City and Prairie du Chien was accepted and L. M. Strong and Israel Mitchell were paid for their services as commissioners.

On August 23, 1841, the new board, consisting of E. Price, A. S. Cooley and Thomas Linton, qualified and Charles S. La Grave was elected clerk, Edgar Griswold acting in his absence. The bonds of Griswold as assessor and of Anson Rudesill as public administrator were approved. Thomas P. Parks was allowed \$100 for services rendered in assessing the St. Peters country in 1841.

A posting of the books from October, 1839, to August 26, 1841, showed that the county expenditures were \$3,054.72, and the receipts \$2,096.59, making the indebtedness of the county \$959.13. Having accumulated a county debt, it will be seen that Clayton had reached an advanced stage of civilization. A contract was made with Herman Graybill for the purchase of a frame building situated on the public square at Prairie la Porte for county purposes and for the use of the building then occupied by the county court, "for the use of all town, county or public meetings, whatsoever." It was in this year that the territorial road was established from Dubuque to Fort Atkinson. Calbert Roberts, Samuel S. Clifton and Joseph Hewitt were the commissioners appointed by the territory. The county paid for their services but charged a portion to the county of Fayette, as there were  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles of this road in Clayton and  $29\frac{3}{4}$  miles in Fayette.

An entry which is interesting but the details of which are not known reads as follows: "Ordered that the petitions received for and against an election be considered not a fair representation and that the petitions for and against an election at the next meeting of the board will be acted upon by the board and that the majority of the people of Clayton county proper, within 50 miles, including the mission precinct." The above is very ambiguous and does not state the reasons



for such petitions nor the nature of the election desired. It shows, however, that the commissioners considered everything within 50 miles of Prairie la Porte as belonging to "Clayton county, proper."

It was in this year that James A. McClellan shot and killed Henry Holtzbecker, the then sheriff of the county. This tragedy occurred at Prairie la Porte. The two men got into a personal quarrel and it is claimed that Holtzbecker went to his house and obtained a pistol for the avowed purpose of shooting McClellan, and that, when McClellan saw him approaching with his weapon drawn, McClellan, who had a loaded rifle at his side, fired and killed Holtzbecker instantly. Asa Griswold presided as Justice of the Peace at the preliminary hearing which followed McClellan's arrest, at which time McClellan was acquitted on the grounds of self-defense. Holtzbecker was succeeded by J. W. Griffith as sheriff. In January, 1842, an accounting was made with the treasurer, Ambrose Kennedy, and it was found that a balance of \$991.69 was due the county. This was promptly paid, however, and the account balanced.

Polly Reese was the second person to be cared for by the county and is described as an "insane female without relatives or friends." On the fifth day of February, 1842, Polly Reese "was offered to the lowest bidder and struck off to James Henderson at the sum of \$2.87½ per week." Mr. Henderson evidently found he had made a poor bargain for he soon turned Polly back to the county and later, many bills were allowed different people for her board and care.

The first record of a bounty is found under the date of March 7, 1842; for black or gray wolves \$1.50 was offered; for cubs 75 cents; for prairie wolves \$1, and for cubs 50 cents.

It was April 4, 1842, that Robert R. Read succeeded E. B. Lyon, as clerk of the board. Mr. Read afterward served the county in official capacities until the infirmities of age forced him to resign. Read township is named in his honor and he was one of the most popular men in the county. A sketch of his life is given elsewhere. At this session of the board H. M. Rice was licensed to keep a ferry across the Mississippi at what was known as Doucmans Ferry at Prairie du Chien. At this time Millville precinct was extended to include the south part of Jefferson and Mallory townships; at the same time Elk Creek precinct was extended "to include all persons residing between the waters of Turkey river and Elk creek in the county of Clayton, and all persons residing in the county of Fayette." Wanzer precinct was divided and a new precinct called the Yellow River precinct was created, the boundaries of which were as follows: "From the mouth of Bloody Run, following its stream five miles, thence to Yellow river, eight miles up said river, thence to the Painted Rock." Mission precinct was attached to Yellow river precinct. Williard Knight was made supervisor of a new road district which was to include all persons living south of Dr. Andros's and north of Robert R. Read's. The board met on July 4, 1842, but no official recognition of the day is made. Part of the business transacted that day was to change the voting place of Boardman precinct from the "Dry Mill" to the home of Elisha Boardman.

## THE ELECTION OF 1842

In August, 1842, the board canvassed the votes of the preceding election and entered results on the minute book. This is the only election during the 40's of which we have any complete record. The vote was as follows: Sheriff—Ambrose Kennedy, 71, John Linton, 54, Thomas P. Parks, 20; Commissioner—A. S. Cooley, 137; Clerk—Robert R. Read, 133, E. B. Cornish, 3; Recorder—Charles E. Bensell, 8, E. B. Cornish, 60; Coroner—Robert Campbell, 59, William Walker, 12, James King, 31, John W. Gillett, 36; Surveyor—C. S. Edson, 65, H. D. Lee, 70; Assessor—Horace D. Bronson, 107, Charles Sawyer, 25; Treasurer—H. T. Lander, 59, David Springer, 20, John Downie, 36.

The vote by precincts will be of interest as indicating the density of population. It was as follows: Wayman: Justice—Asa W. Gifford, 15; Constable, Edward Dickens, 15. Prairie la Porte: Justice—Benjamin F. Forbes, 20, James Watson, 15, Dean Gay, 6, Patton McMullen, 1; Constable—Abraham Van Doren, 15, Joseph Read, 3, John W. Gillett, 1. Yellow River: Justice—Daniel G. Beck, 9; Constable—James Jones, 8, Jud Barker, 2. Boardman: Justice—Elisha Boardman, 10, Horace D. Bronson, 10, John Downie, 1, Peter Wittlewattle, 1; Constable—Elias Meisner, 9, Charles Sawyer, 8. Wanzer: Justice—P. P. Olmstead, 25, A. E. Wanzer, 14, William Pigeon, 13, David Olmstead, 12; Constable—Graham Thorne, 28, Richard Jones, 27, A. E. Wanzer, 1, J. B. Briggs, 1, J. Blazedell, 1. Millville: Justice—Jesse Briggs, 25, D. D. Walker, 7; Constable—Nathan Springer, 27, John Gardener, 22.

At a meeting of the board in October, 1842, the salary of James Crawford, district attorney, was fixed at \$100 per year, and a new election precinct was created to include the county of Fayette and so much of Clayton county lying within the lines 10 miles distance and running parallel with the boundaries of Fayette. Elections were to be held at the house of F. Wilcock. In 1843, Eliphalet Price seems to have had the board all to himself. He met and adjourned on six different days, in January and February, before another member of the board met with him and business could be transacted. A financial statement of the county was made February 14, 1843. The expenditures from August 25, 1842, were \$1,605.24, prior indebtedness \$959.15, revenue \$1,927.69, indebtedness \$625.28.

*Founding of Jacksonville—1843*—It was in 1843 that the county seat prepared for the first of its many moves. The territorial legislature appointed a committee to locate the county seat of Clayton county. The first mention of this on the county records is as follows: "Ordered that the clerk be instructed to notify William Jones of Jackson county and Hardin Newlin of Dubuque county, that David Moreland, one of the commissioners appointed by the legislature met at Prairie la Porte, the first Monday of April, to relocate the county seat of said county and adjourned until the fourth Monday of the present month (April) at Prairie la Porte."

On May 22, the commissioners reported to the board as follows: "Gentlemen: According to an act of the legislature assembly of the

territory of Iowa, passed February 15, A. D. 1843, to relocate the county seat of Clayton county: We, David Moreland, of Delaware county, and Hardin Newlin of Dubuque county, met at the town of Prairie la Porte, in said county, on the first day of May, inst., and after being duly sworn, proceeded to examine the situation of said county and the local advantages of different sites. We have selected and located the seat of justice of Clayton county, territory of Iowa, on the north 80 acres of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18 Town. 93 N., range 3 W. The name of the seat of justice of Clayton county, located as above, shall be Jacksonville."

This record is followed by an indenture by which James Watson donated the land chosen, to the county on condition that the proceeds of the sales of said land be used for public buildings and for no other purpose. Subscriptions for the new court house are entered as follows: James Watson, 80 acres of land; John W. Gillett, \$50, in work; Angus P. McDonnell, \$15, in work; Richard Only, \$50, in hauling; Timothy Killam, \$10, in hauling and work; George A. Whitman, \$50, in work or money. The territorial commissioners were allowed \$75 for their services and James Watson was allowed \$3 for driving stakes in the town of Jacksonville. A general election was ordered to be held at Jacksonville the first Monday in October, 1843, and Charles E. Bensell, Asa Griswold and J. Watson were the first election officers. Luther Patch, John Downie and Ambrose Kennedy were instructed to appraise the town lots of Jacksonville.

The first meeting of the board at the new county seat was on October 2, 1843, and, at that time, it was ordered that it be publicly advertised that the next term of the district court would be held at Jacksonville. The new board which met in October, 1843, consisted of James King, A. S. Cooley and E. M. Barber.

*Probate Court*—During these years the probate court had commenced to transact business. Although the country was young, death was not unknown and estates though small had to be dealt with. Richard Pearson was the probate judge, from 1838 to 1842, when he was succeeded by Eliphalet Price. The first estate administered was that of Betsy Campbell and the first record was dated October 26, 1840. The next estate was that of Thomas Whishart and the third that of William D. Grant, one of the first county commissioners. Elisha Boardman was administrator of this estate which seems to have been considerable for those days and out of which grew extended litigation. The estate of Henry Holtzbecker, who was killed, was one of the first administered by Eliphalet Price. One of the acts of Richard Pearson was the appointment of David Lowry as guardian of a half-breed Winnebago girl. In November, 1841, Anson Woodsell gave bond as the first public administrator.

To give an idea of values in 1840 some of the items of the Thomas Whishart estate are given. Claim situated on Turkey river and the appurtenances thereon erected and known as Walker's claim, valued at \$30. Movables in said house, \$7; axe, 75c; 2 oxen, \$40; 125 bushel potatoes, in the ground, \$12.50; plow, \$8; corn hoe, 50c; four hogs, \$18. The inventory of the estate of William G. Stearns made in 1843 is also of interest as showing values. Among the items are the



following: One horse, \$50; rifle gun and rigging, \$7.; pair of boots, \$2.50; ax, \$1; string of bells, \$2.25; buffalo skin, \$3; buck skin, 50c mineral tools, \$7.35; one canoe, \$2; one ferry boat, \$8. From the invoices of these, and other estates, it is noticeable that all tools and metal objects were of high value, whereas wood products and agricultural products were cheap. This is found particularly in the estate of Herman Graybill, the pioneer of Prairie la Porte, who died January 4, 1843.

*District Court*—The district court also, under Judge Wilson, showed increased activity. There were numerous cases against different individuals for illegal sales of liquor to the Indians. It seems that the settlers had considerable sympathy with the violators of this law as convictions were difficult and the usual verdict of the jury was "not guilty." The McGregors were among those most frequently in court and the first entry in the celebrated case involving the ownership of the Giard grant was made in June, 1842, this being an appeal in the case of Thomas P. Burnett and Alexander McGregor vs. Benjamin Blazedell. The first record of the naturalization of a citizen was that of John Downie, granted in June, 1842, and the second of William Grant. Christian Wise and Patrick Uriell were naturalized at the same term of court. John Ryan, George Humphrey and Jacob F. Ribman were among those naturalized at this time and Daniel Weller, a native of Germany, Fox, a native of "Upper Canada," and Angus P. McDonnell, a native of "Lower Canada," were among the first to declare their intention of becoming citizens. In January, 1843, Judge Wilson issued a writ of habeas corpus to Captain Summers, commandant of the garrison at Fort Atkinson, for three men wanted by the court. There must have been considerable excitement in the county when a number of the county officials were indicted, in 1844, for gaming and fined \$20 each. James Pappin and Michael Uriell were naturalized in October, 1844. The proceedings of the board and of the court are practically all the written history of this period and it is true that they but form a skeleton of history. The records of the commissioners are filled largely with the different acts connected with the laying out of roads. Many mistakes were made and there were the usual petitions for alterations, based largely on personal interests, and every step was attended by considerable overhead expense, but, in the main, the commissioners did well and many of the roads established in the 40s are the ones used today. The commissioners paid considerable attention to the upbuilding of the new county seat at Jacksonville. In June, 1843, Eliphalet Price is paid for his services in laying out the town of Jacksonville, and, in October, John Downie appraised the lots of the new town. In January, 1844, the board fixed grocery licenses at \$25 per annum, bar license connected with a tavern for \$25, and it was ordered that no license be issued for the sale of liquors within five miles of the Winnebago lands. In February, 1843, the indebtedness of the county was \$1,040.99. At this time the board reserved lots at Jacksonville for county purposes and two lots were donated to John Banfill. On February 15 a special meeting was held to receive the public buildings from James King, contractor, and he was given credit for \$675 and his bond released.

*Early Election Precincts*—There were six election precincts outlined in 1844, and they were known as Millville, Jacksonville, Bloody Run, Yellow River, Boardman, and Wayman precincts. In 1845, the Bemis precinct was created, including Lodomillo and the west half of Elk township and in 1846 the precinct of Guttenberg was designated, with elections to be held at the home of Christian Wise.

A public sale of lots at Jacksonville was held on the 17th of April, 1844, and among the purchasers were Gerrard Forbes, of Grant county, Wisconsin, one lot for \$21.75; Dan B. Barber, Anson Rudesell, Daniel D. Walker, Charles Sawyer, Levi Dobson, Thomas Graybill, Frederick Hertrich, Charles Glidden and James M. Thompson. The purchase money was charged to James King and at the same time a lot was donated to Charles Guy, providing he would erect and operate a blacksmith shop for the term of one year. In August, a lot was set apart for cemetery purposes. In October, a lot was deeded to Calvin Jackson and one to Reuben Noble and the sum of \$18 for these was charged to the account of John Banfill, with whom the board had contracted for lathing and plastering the court house.

In October, 1844, is the first record of a quarrying permit, which was given to Abraham VanDoren, he to pay three cents per perch for the rock. By June 1845 the indebtedness of the county was \$1,060.66½.

#### BEGINNINGS OF GUTTENBERG

It was shortly prior to 1845, that the Western Settlement Society of Cincinnati, a society which was formed for the purpose of aiding German immigrants who were leaving that country on account of the troublous times, bought land north and south of Prairie la Porte, which had been pre-empted by the county in 1839. The first party of these German settlers arrived at the new colony March 8, 1845, and consisted of Charles Nieman, Henry Telzemeyer, B. H. Overbeck, Charles Trepahne and John Ehrhardt together with their families. Prairie la Porte had been deserted as the county seat and there remain there only the old county buildings and the old Graybill tavern. It was prior to the coming of these German pioneers that the county contracted with Christian Miller, as agent for the Settlement Society, to sell the Prairie la Porte tract for the sum of \$2,000. This contract was later carried out.

In April, 1845, we find reflection of the political strife which was stirring the nation, for at that time the board ordered that the names of three streets in Jacksonville called Jefferson, Madison, and Jackson streets be changed to Watson, Rutland and Niagara. Among the orders of this year is one appointing John W. Gillett as assessor to fill vacancy; one granting a liquor license to Benjamin F. Forbes at Jacksonville; and one, that Daniel Walker still retain the office of treasurer until the next general election. A lot in Jacksonville was donated to John Tully to maintain a blacksmith shop. At this time a contract was entered into for the building of a "gaol" and the following bids were received: Alfred Kiney, \$557; Benjamin F. Forbes, \$385; Abraham Van Doran, \$500; David Clark, \$248. The contract was awarded to

Clark and he was to receive half of his pay in town lots and the balance from the sale of town lots.

*The County Jail*—The specifications for the jail were as follows: On the 5th day of November, 1845, the county commissioners resolved upon the erection of a "public goal," according to the following specifications: "It shall be built of hewed square oak timber, laid close together; the walls are to be one foot thick and twelve feet high; the room fourteen feet square in the clear on the foundation, and nine feet in the clear between the floors. Floors to be laid with oak timber one inch thick, and the upper floor to have a trap door, three feet long and two feet wide; the inside walls of the lower room are to be planked with two-inch oak planks on the sides and the bottom floor the same way. These planks are to be filled with nails not more than one inch and a half apart; to the side next to the wall, then spiked fast to the wall with four-inch spikes, the spikes not more than fourteen inches apart; the bottom floor to be finished in the same way. There are to be two grates fourteen inches square to be put in the walls of the room as high as the upper floor will admit, to be made of one-inch bar iron, the frame of the grate to be made of heavy flat bar iron; there is to be left on the frame of the grate, a zell, or tenant, of three inches above and below to sink it in the timber, and then to be well spiked on to the wall. The upper floor is to be laid with one-inch plank; the trapdoor is to be made of double two-inch oak plank doubled and riveted together with twenty-four rivets, fastened to the floor by long, strong staple hinges, a bolt three-fourths of an inch thick to run through the floor riveted to the hinge, the hinge to extend across the door, then to fasten by two staples and two substantial locks, the keys to fit their own locks only. The house is to be sided up or inclosed with good oak or basswood siding. It shall be shingled with good oak or pine of fourteen inch shingles, not laid more than four and a half inches to the weather. The gable ends and roof are to be close sheeted before siding or shingling. There is to be a good strong flight of stairs to be built on the outside at one end, leading to the door of the gable end, running by the side with railing and a platform to be left at the top of the stairs, three feet square. The above building is to be well underpinned with a stone wall, at least one foot thick; the corner or end of each round of timber is to be pinned with one-and-a-half-inch pins, and the plates are to be pinned in four places in each log." David Clark was later given the contract to fence the court yard with a fence to be made of oak boards, one inch thick, the fence to be five feet high with six boards and a cap. By January, 1846, the county debt had grown to \$2,269.69½. Among the curious documents are found two orders to the sheriff to notify individuals to leave the county.

*At Garnaville—1846*—On April 15, 1846, the following entry is found in the county records: "Whereas, by an act passed and approved January 13, 1846, by the council and house of representatives of the legislative assembly of the territory of Iowa authorizing and empowering the county commissioners of Clayton county to change the name of Jacksonville, the county seat of said county, by majority of said board and that the name when so changed, shall be and remain the name of said town. It is therefore ordered by said board, unan-



imously, that the name of said town of Jacksonville shall be changed to Garnavillo, and hereafter all transactions of business with the board shall be dated at Garnavillo as the present county seat of Clayton county." In August, 1846, Daniel D. Walker was elected treasurer and his bond was approved. In September Joseph B. Quigley and John Downier qualified as county commissioners, A. S. Cooley being the other member of the board. H. T. Lander was given a lot in Garnavillo for services as auctioneer in "crying off" lots at the auction in 1843; and a second sale of lots was ordered.

*Hartge Murder*—In the same month, October, 1846, is found the first mention of Reuben Noble as prosecuting attorney. This was in connection with the trial of George Humphreys and an Indian named Konago for the murder of Louis Hartge. The history of 1882 gives the following account of the crime: "Early in the spring of 1846, a squad of Indians came to the vicinity of Elkport, and there camped. Among the number was George Humphreys and Konago, the latter an untutored son of the forest, the former being possessed of a good education received in a college at Alton, Ill., from which institution he had graduated. The wild and free life of the Indian had too many charms for Humphrey, and as soon as he graduated from college he returned to his tribe and the life of his youth. Like all other Indians, this squad of Winnebagoes was fond of "firewater," and, on camping, they immediately went in search of the same. George Humphrey and Konago called at the house of Lewis Hartge, and made demand for liquor, which was refused. A quarrel then ensued, and in the fracas Konago was shoved out of the door, when he immediately raised his rifle, and although Humphrey attempted to stop him, he shot Lewis Hartge and instantly killed him. Humphrey and Konago were instantly arrested, and indictment found against them at the May, 1846, term of court. The case was called and a change of venue was asked and granted to the Dubuque court. The trial subsequently took place at Dubuque, the Indians being prosecuted by Stephen Hemstead and Reuben Noble, and defended by Samuel Murdock and Platt Smith. George Humphrey was acquitted, and Konago convicted. An appeal was taken to the supreme court, and pending the appeal Konago broke jail and escaped. He was never afterwards heard from."

In 1843, certain Indians, among whom was Wau Kon, were indicted for murder and brought to the county seat for trial. On account of the alleged sentiment against them in this vicinity their attorney, James Grant, obtained a change of venue to Dubuque county. In 1847 the commissioners allowed bills to the following for "guarding Indians in 1843:" John W. Gillett, \$10.75; Williard Knight, \$10; Charles Bensell, \$10; James Stevens, \$10; Eli Carlin, \$10; William Oliver, \$6; L. V. Harris, \$4; Thomas Graybill, \$16.50; Ambrose Kennedy, \$33.30. James King was also allowed \$65.50 for "conveying Indians from Fort Atkinson to Prairie la Porte and back to the fort, and also conveying said Indians from Fort Atkinson to Dubuque."

In January, 1847, by means of the sale of real estate, the county indebtedness had been reduced to \$757.50 $\frac{1}{4}$ . At the April session, 1847, Clayton county went "dry," and the following order is made by the board: "Whereas by an act of the legislature of the state of

Iowa, approved February 16, 1847, requiring the qualified electors in each county in this state at the township election to be held on the first Monday, the fifth day of April, A. D. 1847, to decide by vote whether the county commissioners shall grant licenses for retailing intoxicating liquors in their respective counties or not; and, whereas, by the returns of Clayton county from said election, being this day opened by the board of county commissioners as required by law, and the votes being duly canvassed, that the number of votes for and against license as follows, to wit: For granting license, 81; against granting license, 207; leaving a majority for no license, 126 votes. Therefore, it is ordered by said board that the clerk is hereby instructed not to issue permits or licenses for retailing intoxicating liquors in said county from the date hereof."

*Ten Townships Named*—In 1847, at the April term of the county commissioners court the county was divided into townships in order that it might avail itself of its share of the school fund of the state. The following is the record of boundaries:

Township No. 1, Millville—Fractional township 91 north, range 1 and 2 west, and fractional township 91, range 1 and 2 east.

Township No. 2, Mallory—Township 91 north, range 3 west, and the southeast quarter of township 91 north, range 4 west.

Township No. 3, Lodomillo—The west half of township 91 north, range 4 west, and township 91 north, range 5 and 6 west.

Township No. 4, Hewitt—Township 92 north, ranges 5 and 6 west, with Fayette county attached thereto, east half of township 92 north, range 5 west, attached to Volga township.

Township No. 5, Volga—Township 92 north, range 4 west, northeast quarter of township 91 north, range 4 west, southwest quarter of township 92, range 3 west, and the east half of township 92, north, range 5 west.

Township No. 6, Jefferson—Southeast quarter of township 92 north, range 3 west, and fractional townships 92 and 93 north, range 2 west.

Township No. 7, Garnavillo—North half of township 92 north, range 3 west, township 93 north, range 3 west, the south half of township 94 north, range 3 west, and the east half of township 93 north, range 4 west.

Township No. 8, Boardman—The west half of township 93 north, range 4 west, township 93 north, ranges 5 and 6 west, the south half of township 94 north, range 5 west, the southwest quarter of township 94 north, range 4 west, and the southeast quarter of township 94 north, range 4 west.

Township No. 9, Mendon—The north half of township 94 north, ranges 3, 4 and 5 west, and the south half of township 95 north, ranges 3, 4 and 5 west.

Township No. 10, Mononah—The north half of township 95 north, ranges 3, 4 and 5 west, and township 96 north, range 3 west.

The voters of the townships were notified that an election would be held for township officers and "particularly for one school inspector for each township". On April 22, James A. McClellan entered upon his duties as clerk of the district court, giving a bond with Samuel

Murdock and Ambrose Kennedy as security. Reuben Noble also gave bond as prosecuting attorney, Samuel Murdock and Gilbert Douglas signing his bond. The lots of Garnavillo having sold very well a new subdivision was surveyed and placed on the market by the board. Robert R. Read was elected recorder in August, 1847, and according to law he acted also as treasurer and ex-officio collector.

In 1848, the town lots remaining unsold at Garnavillo were ordered to be placed on sale, "lots to be sold for county orders." These lots were sold July 4, 1848, for a total of \$868.50. At this time the boundaries of several townships were altered, the east half of township 92, range 5, was taken from Hewitt township and added to Volga, and 12 sections were taken from Garnavillo and added to Jefferson township. McClellan remained in office but a year and, in August, 1848, Frederick Andros resumed his old place as clerk of the district court. Andrew S. Cooley, James Tapper and John W. Potts constituted the board for the years 1847-48. The office of school fund commissioner had been created, Eliphalet Price was elected for that office in 1847 and re-elected in 1848 and 1849. In October, 1848, the board fixed his salary at \$200 per annum. This was an important office having to do with funds received from the sale of school lands and from the state. As a result of the sale of lands what was known, later, as the "permanent school fund" was obtained. This fund was loaned under the direction of the auditor, at a later date, and in many counties was the source of much favoritism. In 1849, there seems to have been a change from the rigid prohibition attitude and a number of "grocery" licenses were issued. In 1849, also, a ferry license was issued for a ferry across the Mississippi from the town of Keeleroy.

*First County Seat Election—1849.* In April, 1849, the first of the long series of elections for the relocation of the county seat was held. The vote was Garnavillo, 254, Guttenberg, 177, Elkader, 113. No town having received a majority of all votes cast, another election was ordered to take place in May. Elkader receiving the lowest vote in April, was excluded from the May contest. The May election resulted, Garnavillo, 279; Guttenberg, 245, and it is declared that Garnavillo "be and remain the permanent county seat."

It was at this April election, 1849, that Elkader made its first bid for the county seat. A number of citizens agreed to contribute providing Elkader won. The following is a list of subscriptions: Thompson, Sage and Davis \$500, also 8 lots to be selected by county commissioners, lots valued at \$30 each; E. G. Rolf, \$30; Amos Warner, \$50; H. D. Bronson, \$50; Elisha Boardman, \$50; A. Z. Fuller, \$10; A. D. Griswold, \$25; W. M. Keys, \$10; E. V. Carter, \$10; Adam Keen, \$30; A. G. Park, \$10; John Downie, \$10. January 8, 1850, upon petition of William Alloway and others, the township of Cass was created, elections to be held at the home of James Alloway. The boundaries of the township were the same as at present.

Some idea of the credit rating of the county is found in the following entry, dated January 9, 1850: "Whereas the county was indebted to the state the clerk was requested to dispose of orders sufficient to raise the amount, according to the instructions the clerk sold orders to Alonzo Petton, of Prairie du Chien, one hundred and fifty dollars, for



seventy-five dollars in cash." The county indebtedness at this time was \$3,412.04½.

In April, 1850, on petition of S. B. Forbes, township 94, range 7, was created a township under the name of Pleasant Valley. This township lay wholly within Fayette county and shows the wide jurisdiction held by the commissioners of Clayton county. At the same session, a road was authorized from West Union, in Fayette county, to McGregor's Landing. At this session, also, the boundaries of Jefferson and Garnavillo townships were again changed and Garnavillo was made to extend to the Mississippi river. The last minute recorded in the old ledger which served the county for a dozen years is that ordering the payment of \$20 to Frank Emerson as advance payment for assessing Clayton county.

#### COURTS

Judge T. S. Wilson presided over the courts of the county so long as Iowa was a territory. In 1846, Clayton was placed in the second judicial district together with Buchanan, Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Jackson, Jones, Muscatine and Scott counties; Allamakee and Winneshiek were added to this district in 1847, Black Hawk, Bremer, Butler, and Grundy in 1851, and Chickasaw and Howard in 1853. Over all this large territory Judge James Grant was the presiding judge. At this time there was not a railroad in his entire district. The journey from county seat to county seat was made overland and the judge was accompanied by a retinue of attorneys who followed him, from point to point, joining with the local bar in the trial of cases. The sessions of the court were of necessity far apart. Judge Wilson held his last term of court here in May, 1846, and Judge Grant held his first term in June, 1847. The coming of the court was, therefore, a great gala time for the entire county. It was the time to which all the attorneys looked forward and there was a great clashing of wits which was hugely enjoyed by the crowds which filled the rude benches in the court room. In those days attorneys were expected to be combative. If they did not display a great degree of fiery hatred for opposing counsel the client felt that he did not get the worth of his money. Every lawsuit was a battle, witnesses were brow-beaten, lawyers abused each other roundly, and addresses to the jury were long and fervid. But, this constant sword-play of wits produced keen intellects. The man who could not thrust and parry had no place at the bar, and the result was that these backwoods courts produced some of the brainiest lawyers this country has ever known. Abraham Lincoln must forever stand as the highest product of these old time courts; but in this county they produced such men as Reuben Noble, Samuel Murdock, Elias H. Williams, J. O. Crosby, Thomas Updegaff, Eliphalet Price, L. O. Hatch, John F. Stoneman, and many others. During these court sessions lodgings were at a premium at the little county seat town. There were grand jurors, and petit jurors, litigants and witnesses. The judge had the best room at the tavern, which, after the court had adjourned was the scene of many jovial parties. Outside of the court room and court hours, the pioneers indulged in good natured horse play and tests of strength. Sometimes embittered litigants carried

their troubles outside and there were fistic encounters which called for more work by the courts. Prisoners were not pampered in those days, anyone reading the specifications for the county jail will note that it was simply a strong box, built solely for security, without provision for sanitation and with almost no provisions for light and air. Prisoners were manacled with heavy home-made irons, fit to have chained an elephant. Sometimes, the chains were riveted to the floor. They were taken to and from the court room in chains and these were worn on the long overland journeys to the penitentiary at Fort Madison where the cells were little less than tombs. Court week was a great time for the merchants of the county seat, for men from fifty miles around were there and there was much buying to be done.

*Judge James Grant*—Judge Grant was of southern origin and is described as having a broad forehead and small features, he was fond of outdoor sports and was a great student of the classics, as well as of law. It is stated that he left the south because he did not wish to live in a slave state. He came to Iowa, in 1838, after having acted as prosecuting attorney for the sixth district of Illinois. In 1841, he was a member of the House of Representatives in the Iowa territorial legislature, and was a member of both the first and the second constitutional conventions. Governor Chambers appointed him as prosecuting attorney and under the state constitution he was elected judge, which office he held for five years. His subsequent life was spent at Davenport and he was one of the prominent jurists of the state.

#### COUNTY IN 1850

With this we may close the history of the county's development up to 1850. We have seen the beginning of things. Guttenberg, under the direction of the Western Settlement Company had become a strong and vigorous German settlement, the most important town along the Mississippi between Dubuque and Prairie du Chien. Coming direct from the old country the Germans brought with them their language and customs and Guttenberg seemed like a bit of the old world, dropped into the very center of the new. On account of the difference in language, these people had as yet little in common with the balance of the county. The great melting-pot of Americanism was at work, but up to that time the process had been slow and the Germans were as suspicious of the strange customs of America as the Americans were of the peculiar ways of the "foreigners."

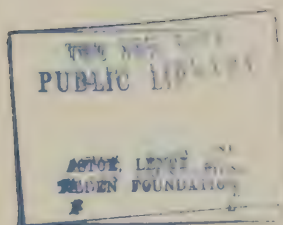
Garnaville was a typical, inland, county seat town. It was fostered and boomed by the county. At that time, when there were no railroads, it was on a par with every other town, and while not in the center of the county it was in the center of population. It was located, and is today in one of the finest and most prosperous agricultural sections in all Iowa and it is this which makes it unique as the most prosperous inland town in Iowa, today.

Owing to the fact that the Indians still ranged, freely, in the north part of the county, the settlement of that portion was retarded. Up to 1850, McGregor contained but a few buildings. Although the first ferry was established by Alexander McGregor in 1836 it was still little

more than a landing. Elkader was but a few years old. It grew up around, and because of, the excellent water power and the building of the mill. John Thompson, Chester Sage and Timothy Davis had the town laid out in 1845. They built a dam and erected the largest mill in the county. This made Elkader a good market place and gradually attracted merchants, blacksmiths and wagon-makers. Backed by men of enterprise and capital, it had a vigorous growth and, as we have seen, in 1849, it was a contender for county seat honors.

The other post offices in the county were more of the nature of settlements than of towns. The pioneers were beginning to cluster together for the advantage of schools and sociability. Along the edge of the Indian territory there was an undesirable class of citizens. Liquor traffic with the Indians was very tempting as it offered large profits, for the Indians were willing to part with valuable government stores for the sake of a little of the forbidden fire-water. The whiskey venders crowded as near the five-mile limit as possible and the border was the scene of considerable outlawry. Sodom and Gomorrah were two saloons situated near the present town of Hardin, in Monona township, and it is said that they fully lived up to their names. For some time this neighborhood was supposed to harbor a nest of counterfeiters. As soon, however, as the Indians were removed and the country opened for settlement, the character of the population changed; the outlaw followed his prey, the Indian, and the earnest, honest pioneer took possession of the land.







HON. JOSEPH EIBOECK

HON. THOMAS UPDEGRAFF

LEFT TO RIGHT—JUDGE REUBEN NOBLE,  
JUDGE SAMUEL MURDOCK,  
JUDGE E. H. WILLIAMS,  
JUDGE ELIPHALET PRICE

HON. SAMUEL MERRILL

HON. TIMOTHY DAVIS

## CHAPTER IV

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### PROGRESS AND POVERTY—1850-1860

LAST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—COUNTY JUDGES—JUDGE WILLIAMS—FIRST NEWSPAPER—VIEW OF COUNTY, 1853—BUENA VISTA—MCGREGOR—GUTTENBERG—CLAYTON—GARNAVILLO—VOLGA CITY—ELKPORT—MILLVILLE—MONONA—ELKADER—RIVER TRAFFIC—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—IMMIGRATION—FIRST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—ELECTION OF 1853—MCGREGOR'S PROSPERITY—BUSY GUTTENBERG—LEAD MINING—MAILS—PIONEER MAIL CARRIER—DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY—BRIDGE BUILDING—PROSPEROUS YEARS—MORE BRIDGE CONTROVERSIES—POLITICAL AFFAIRS—ANNALS OF 1854—ANTI-SLAVERY AGITATION—FIRST RESOLUTIONS—GRAND MEADOW MEETING—CURRENT EVENTS AND COUNTY IMPROVEMENTS, 1854—FIRST COUNTY FAIR—MARTS AND MARKETS—CLAYTON A STATE POWER—NOBLE'S IMPORTANT ROLE—APPROACH OF HARD TIMES—ELKADER WINS COUNTY SEAT—READ AND MORASSER TOWNSHIPS—EVENTS OF 1856—FIELD OF BUSINESS—DUBUQUE VIEW OF CLAYTON—MCGREGOR AND "THE TIMES"—COUNTY POLITICS—FIRST STEAM FERRY—EARLY HISTORY OF MCGREGOR—JUDGE ELIPHALET PRICE—RAILROAD PROJECTS—GUTTENBERG THE COUNTY SEAT—HARD TIMES—RAILROAD REACHES RIVER—MCGREGOR'S FIRST CITY ELECTION—CLOUDED MCGREGOR TITLES—COMING OF NORWEGIANS—POLITICS IN 1857—HARD TIMES REACH MCGREGOR—EVENTS OF 1858—THIRD COUNTY SEAT FIGHT—INDIANS AT MCGREGOR—RIVER PIRATES CAPTURED—POLITICAL UNREST—TRIP THROUGH COUNTY—ELECTION OF 1858—CLAYTON COUNTY JOURNAL—GOLD DISCOVERY—FIRST TEACHERS' INSTITUTE—YEAR BOOK OF 1859—GARNAVILLO AGAIN COUNTY SEAT—POLITICS—APPROACH OF WAR.

THE decennial period from 1850 to 1860 was one of varied fortunes for the pioneer. The first years were boom years, immigrants both from the eastern states and from foreign countries rushed to the county by the hundreds; traffic on the Mississippi was the heaviest it ever was and, possibly, ever will be. The towns of Guttenberg, Clayton and McGregor became important points, not for this county alone but for all northern Iowa. Owing to the wildcat currency, money was plenty and prices were inflated. The outstretching



fingers of railroads were drawing nearer and nearer and the possibility of the future appealed strongly to the imagination and led to an era of speculation. The reaction came during the later years of this period. The wild cat money became almost valueless and this carried with it an uncertainty and destruction of values which paralyzed all industry. These were among the hardest days the county has ever known. They were also days of great political unrest and fierce partisan strife. The old Whig party broke up and disappeared to be replaced by the Republican party. The question of slavery became a vital issue dividing the people of even this northern county. The Abolitionist, the Free Soiler and the Know Nothing flourished in these days. The beginnings of secession stirred the nation and it was the time when the passions were aroused which made the Civil War inevitable. These great events of the coming years were, mercifully, concealed from the pioneers and they entered upon the year 1850 with bold courage and high confidence, pursuing the every day work with assurance of success.

#### LAST COMMISSIONERS

These were the last years under the county commission system, the minutes of the board showing but little of interest. In 1850 Joseph Hewitt took the place of J. W. Potts on the board, and the entries have to deal largely either with matters of new roads or with the ordinary expense bills of the county. The first order for the sale of land for delinquent taxes was made in January, 1851. One of the last acts of the commissioners was to fix the tax levy for 1851 and with this and a few other minor entries the old commission went out of existence, on July 28, 1851.

*County Judges*—Under the new law, adopted by the legislature, in 1850, the county judge held the most important office ever intrusted to one man in the history of an Iowa county. He took the place of the county commissioners and of the probate judge, and had jurisdiction in many matters which did not rise to the dignity of the district court. The county judge was the sole arbiter as to all the questions which had come before the commissioners, he settled with county officers and was in fact responsible for the entire conduct of county affairs. In such a position it was of the greatest importance that the officer be a man of the highest integrity, and Clayton county was indeed fortunate in this respect. Elias H. Williams was the first county judge. He was succeeded by Eliphalet Price who was followed in turn by O. W. Crary and John Garber, and all of these men distinguished themselves for their honesty and ability and were, for many years after their incumbency of this office, among the county's most distinguished and honored citizens.

#### JUDGE WILLIAMS

The first official act of Judge Williams under date of August 13, 1851, is an order to the sheriff to give bond for \$5,000. The judge was the great matrimonial bureau of the county and it speaks well for the growth of the county that, between August 13 and October 6, 1851, he issued no less than 16 marriage licenses. In 1852 expense bills were

allowed for surveying roads from Anamosa to Garnavillo and from Quasqueton to the north boundaries of the state of Iowa. The settlement for election expenses for the April election, 1852, shows the following townships, Sperry, Monona, Boardman, Mallory, Cass, Mendon, Jefferson, Volga, Millville, and Lodomillo, and it was ordered by the judge that Elkader be attached to Boardman township for election purposes. In March, 1853, the county judge announces the boundaries of the townships as follows: Mendon, including what is now Giard and all of Mendon in township 95, range 3; Monona, the present townships of Monona and Grand Meadow; Wagner, present townships of Wagner and Marion; Farmersburg, present township and south part of Mendon and north half of Clayton, Garnavillo, townships 93,  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 4 which would include parts of what are now Jefferson, Clayton, Garnavillo and Read townships; Boardman, west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Boardman and Highland; Sperry, west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Cox Creek and Sperry; Volga, east  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Cox Creek and Volga; Jefferson, township 92, range 2 and 3, which would be the same as at present except two north tiers of sections and with one tier added to the west; Buena Vista, same as at present; Millville, same; Mallory, same as present and east  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Elk township; Lodomillo, west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Elk and Lodomillo; Cass as at present.

#### FIRST NEWSPAPER

In 1853, Clayton county took a long step in advance when its first newspaper "The Clayton County Herald" was published in Garnavillo, Jan. 28. It was a four-page, six-column, paper and, being published before the day either of ready prints or of stereotype plates, all of the reading matter was set at home. Despite the many difficulties, the scarcity of exchanges, the lack of facilities and the ever present poverty which harassed these early publishers, the pioneer newspapers were excellent. They give to the history of the county that intimate touch of friendly relationship which is absent from the cold-blooded official record. This first paper was published by H. S. Granger, who came to Garnavillo from Ohio in 1850. He studied law under Judge Murdock and was admitted to the bar in 1851. He began the publication of the Herald, in 1853, and continued with the paper for a year and a half, when he sold to A. W. Drips. Mr. Granger was school fund commissioner from 1852 to 1855. He moved to McGregor in 1856, was taken with the gold fever in 1860 and made a prospecting trip to Colorado. Three days before his return he was elected clerk of the district court, which office he held for twelve years, making his home at Elkader.

The first page of these pioneer papers was devoted to literary matter, which consisted of verses, short stories and the most blood-curdling accounts of murders and accidents. No matter how important the news it was seldom given a place on the first page. One reason for this was that the presses used would print but two pages at a time, the process of printing was slow, and, as it was customary to print the outside first, it was, necessarily, several days older than the inside pages. Newspapers were scarce and furnished almost the only reading matter which reached the homes. The editors were bitter par-

tisans, and abused each other as roundly in their columns, as the lawyers abused each other in court. At the same time they were friends at heart and had much fellow feeling. It was not uncommon for an editor to call another editor a rascal or worse in one issue, and to style him "our esteemed friend" in the next. Obviously there was but little local news in a village of the size of Garnaville in 1853, and the means of getting news from other parts of the county was limited. The surprise is that these papers were so good; coming in many ways up to present standards. Editorial was given much more prominence than it is today and the pioneer papers of Iowa exerted a tremendous influence throughout the state. The day of modern display advertising had not come and advertisements were uniformly of single-column width and, with the exception of a few lines of black type, were set in the ordinary type of the paper. It was also before the day of so-called advertising ethics, and newspapers published, freely, advertisements which would not now be allowed in print; these included lotteries, patent nostrums and the wildest kind of fakes. The first issue of the Herald contains the professional cards of Samuel Murdock, Reuben Noble, E. H. Williams, lawyers; Andros and Linton, doctors; also the card of the Western Hotel; of R. C. Drips, Justice of the Peace; of Drips and Holladay, blacksmiths, and of Clark and Rogers, warehouse men in Clayton. The Garnaville Cash Store, D. G. Rogers, proprietor, announces that he sells as cheap if not cheaper than any one else and (in italics) "the river towns not excepted." Mr. Rogers also announces that he takes daguerreotypes with neatness and dispatch. E. P. Atkins, advertises many patent medicines and his stock of general merchandise and there are lengthy exchange advertisements for such publications as the Saturday Evening Post, Godey's Lady's Book and Graham's Magazine. There is but one local item in this first newspaper and that is concerning a young man, name not given, who was killed by a falling tree while chopping wood near Millville. Notices of two lodges are given, the Odd Fellows, with H. S. Granger, E. Hurd, R. Noble and R. R. Read as officers and the Sons of Temperance, headed by T. G. Drips and L. Angier.

The postal news shows mail twice a week, from Dubuque to Garnaville, and from Garnaville to Prairie du Chien. Also weekly mails from Garnaville to Hardin and from Patch Grove, Wisconsin, to Garnaville. The southern mail, from Tipton to Prairie du Chien via Anamosa, Delhi, Elkader and Garnaville arrived on Sunday, from Tipton, and returned on Monday from Prairie du Chien. The county officers are given as follows: Elias H. Williams, county judge; Robert R. Read, recorder and treasurer; Dr. F. Andros, clerk; S. Murdock, school fund commissioner; Joseph McSperrin, supervisor; Ezra Hurd, surveyor; Thomas Drips, sheriff; O. F. Stevens, attorney.

Succeeding issues contain advertisements of B. S. Forbes' Cash Store, at Garnaville, the New York Store, kept by Thomas Cole & Bros., at Colesburg; H. D. Evans, general merchandise at McGregor's Landing. The pages are enlivened by a lengthy debate between Murdock and Professor Craig, relative to "Mind and Matter," and Professor Craig also contributes lengthy series of articles on geology and spiritualism. Very naturally, the new paper dwells at considerable



length upon Clayton county and its various communities. No better picture of the county as it was in 1853 could be given than is presented by these articles which are quoted, at length.

#### CLAYTON COUNTY—ITS RESOURCES AND ITS PROSPECTS

This county contains an area of 792 square miles or 506,880 acres. On the first of January, 1853, there were about 431,880 acres purchased from government and about 75,000 remaining unsold. According to the best information we have been able to obtain, there is not over one-tenth part of the purchased land which is now under cultivation. This makes 43,180 acres, leaving a balance in the county of 463,692 acres as yet uncultivated. Deduct from the total amount one-fifth part for waste and timber land—which we think quite sufficient, in as much as the timber lands compose a large portion of what is now denominated waste land—and we have left, 405,504 acres of arable land, or nearly ten times the amount now under cultivation. The present population of the county is at least 7,000, being an increase in the last two years of 78 per cent, or 36 per cent per annum. We can hardly expect this increase of population to continue for the next ten years; but suppose it amounts to 25 per cent, on the average, our population will amount on the first day of January, 1863, to nearly 25,000, equal to double the present population of Dubuque county, city inclusive. We learn that the surplus, in wheat alone, for the last year, will not be less than 40,000 bushels, or 8,000 barrels of flour. Assuming then, that our former calculation is correct, and we shall have a surplus, in the article of wheat alone, of 400,000 bushels, when all the land is once under cultivation. Adding at least one-half for superior culture, and we have a surplus of 600,000 bushels, or 120,000 barrels. As a large portion of the county is well adapted to growing stock, there is no doubt but the future surplus will consist more of beef, pork, horses, sheep, etc., and less of the one article (wheat) which now forms almost the entire article of export. We nearly overlooked the fact that there will be some 15,000 or 20,000 bushels of oats and as much corn sent away in the coming spring. Our water power is abundant and of the best quality; and our timber will compare favorably with any portion of the west.

There is, perhaps, no county in the state which possesses more manufacturing advantages than this. Turkey river, which meanders the county from northwest to southeast, will furnish (when the capital and business of the country will warrant its improvement) an almost unlimited water power. There are also several important branches putting into said river, which furnish water power but little inferior to the main stream. Several mills have been already erected, and others are being built on the main river and its tributaries; but we shall speak more particularly of these under the head of Towns and Villages. In the east and northeastern portions of the county are several smaller streams upon which a number of mills have been erected, and an abundance of power remains unimproved. Our commercial advantages are at least inferior to no other county in the state, except it may be Lee county. The Mississippi river—which forms

the great natural commercial channel for our exports and imports—washes our entire eastern boundary, upon the western shore of which are already situated four enterprising and rapidly growing towns. These towns must, at no distant day, necessarily, furnish, in a great measure, the commercial exchanges, not only for this, but for the contiguous counties, especially those in a western direction. And here we would call the attention of these counties, not only directly west of us, but of those also in a southwest direction to the fact that they are several miles nearer the Mississippi river in this county than at any other point. For instance: Independence, in Buchanan county, is twenty-five miles nearer the river at Guttenberg, Clayton or McGregor than at Dubuque. But we are digressing.

Our prospects are soon to brighten by the completion of the railroad to the Mississippi river, opposite Dubuque, when we shall be in direct communication with the eastern markets. This will not only add largely to the emigration here, but will furnish a larger scope for our surplus produce, etc. We learn from an authentic source that the Milwaukee and Mississippi road has now fixed its western terminus opposite Dubuque. Undoubtedly the present policy of the company dictated the precise course which has been pursued, otherwise their wisdom would have sought a different location; but that the wants of this portion of the state and the western portion of Wisconsin will at no distant day call for a road commencing not over twenty-five miles either above or below the mouth of the Wisconsin river, and thence running east to connect either with the Milwaukee road at Madison, or the Chicago road through the Jaynesville, Beloit and Belvidere road, appears to us as absolutely certain. This once completed, and ten hours' ride will bring us to either Milwaukee or Chicago, and two and a half days to New York, Boston, Philadelphia or Washington City.

*Towns in 1853*—After this glowing description of the county as a whole the early numbers of the Herald give descriptions of the various towns of the county. These are as follows:

*Buena Vista*—This town is situated on the Mississippi river in the southeast part of the county. It was laid out October 31, 1848, by William H. Stevens, who subsequently sold it to H. H. Day, the present proprietor.

Francis Cole, of Colesburg, a flourishing inland town situated in Delaware county, erected the first frame building at Buena Vista, which was used for a store house; but owing to the sparse settlements in its immediate vicinity, the town did not improve much until the summer of 1851. Early in the summer of 1851, William H. Stevens and Tobias Walker accidentally discovered a vein of lead ore just back of the town, which soon changed the scene to a kind of second California. Miners flocked in from all directions, and steam boats, which rarely called at the place before, were now loaded with miners, merchants, mechanics, speculators and pickpockets, all in search of the almighty dollar. The town, which before only contained a population of about a dozen more or less, now (1851) numbered about five hundred—the price of fare varying according to the size of the tree against which, if you were lucky enough to be in season, you might

lean at night. On the first of October, 1851, Messrs. Brady, Lubeck and others, laid out an addition to the town, called Upper Buena Vista. Lots sold at enormous rates, and the town improved in a rapid manner. On the twenty-second of June, 1852, Charles Brady laid out another addition, called Middle Buena Vista. After the first excitement incident to such mining towns was over, the place continued to improve; business settled down into its proper channels, and the town at this time is in a prosperous and flourishing condition. Chauvette, Day and Little, we believe, have the principal leads at this time. What yield of mineral they are getting we do not know, but should like to be posted up on this and any other matters relative to the place, by some one of its citizens who may feel an interest in doing it.

*McGregor*—This town is situated in the northeastern portion of this county, on the Mississippi river, and directly opposite Prairie du Chien. It has been long known as a point for storing government supplies destined for Fort Atkinson, and goods for the Indian traders, up to the time the Winnebago Indians were removed to Crow Wing river, in Minnesota Territory. The town was surveyed in the summer of 1846, but like most of the towns in this county, did not improve very much previous to the year 1850. Since that time the improvements have been of that steady and firm character which characterize all our river towns, and argue well for their future prosperity. The road from McGregor to Fort Atkinson (distance 49 miles) follows one unbroken divide, or ridge of land, and in natural advantages probably is not surpassed by any route in northern Iowa of the same length. Nature formed the road, leaving man but little to do beyond appropriating the same to his own use and behoof forever. The town has a good steamboat landing, and has several stores, which are doing a good business. H. D. Evans (whose card will be found in our columns) is doing a large business, and also wholesaling a considerable amount to the back country. We believe there are two public houses at this place, and a steam saw-mill being erected, together with several mechanic shops of the different trades, etc., etc. On the whole the town is in a thriving condition, and no doubt is destined to reach a position far beyond the speculations of the can'ts and standstills, who wonder if that fine edifice just erected is not the last which will ever be built, or if the last discovery in science or the mechanic arts is not the ultimatum of human perfection.

*Guttenburg*—This town, which was formerly called Prairie la Porte, (meaning Door of the Prairie) is situated on the west bank of the Mississippi river, in Town. 92 north, range 3 west. The prairie upon which the town is situated comprises about one thousand acres, a portion of which was originally purchased from the government by the county commissioners of this county, and surveyed into lots, a part of which were sold for the benefit of the county, and the whole were subsequently sold to the Western Settlement Society of Cincinnati, Ohio. Said society, after laying out a large addition to the town, and getting the name changed to Guttenberg, sold the lots in what were termed sections, each comprising three lots and an acre lot, said acre lots being situated on the bluffs, and designed principally for residences. We have never witnessed a more picturesque view of the



Mississippi river than from this part of the town. That portion of the town along the brink of the river rises some fifteen feet above high water mark, and gradually descends towards the bluffs. Had the land naturally ascended from the river in proportion as it descends, it would have been one of the best town sites on the river, between St. Paul and St. Louis. This natural defect will in a great measure be remedied, in time, by building dikes, filling up, etc.; in fact, the corporation has already expended a considerable amount for this purpose. The town was incorporated by an act of the legislature in 1850, and an enterprising spirit is manifested by its citizens, truly commendable, in levying taxes for the purpose of grading roads to render the place easy of access from the surrounding country, and for other purposes.

Mining is carried on to a considerable extent in the vicinity, and must be paying extremely well at the prices for mineral. There have been two smelting furnaces erected on Miners' branch. This stream also furnishes water power sufficient for manufacturing purposes. The town contains a population of from five to six hundred; has a good steamboat landing, two public houses, and several stores, some of which are doing a large business. The county seat was first located here, and at that time—Iowa being but a territory, under the immediate jurisdiction of the Federal Government—the costs incident to litigation were drawn from the pockets of Uncle Sam. The parties litigant, jurors, etc., like all others who feed at the public crib, were not in the habit of dispatching business on the locomotive principle; although, if the legends of trading can be relied on, the application of steam was occasionally made to facilitate their operations.

*Clayton*—The town of Clayton is the youngest of all the rising towns of Clayton county. It was surveyed in the fall of 1849—the present site of the town being a dense forest of timber previous to that time. The place is situated on section 1, township 93 north, range 3 west; it is six miles from Garnavillo and fifteen miles from Elkader. The beginning of business at the place was made by Frank Smith & Co., who, in the fall of 1849, erected a warehouse and store and commenced the mercantile business. The town did not improve much until the fall of 1851, when it took a start, and has steadily improved until the present time. There are now three stores in the place, and another is soon to be opened by the enterprising house of Clark & Rogers, now of Garnavillo. There is also a fair complement of mechanics of various trades, and from the preparations made by some of them, we conclude that manufacturing to a considerable extent will be carried on there, especially in wagon and plow making. Some idea of the business of the place may be obtained from consideration of the fact that Clark & Rogers and Frank Smith & Co., have purchased about forty thousand bushels of grain, mostly wheat, which amount has nearly all been obtained since the first day of January, 1853, neither of those firms being prepared to purchase to any extent previous to that time, for want of warehouse room. Messrs. Frank Smith & Co. will complete their large steam sawmill in June or July next and Messrs. Linton and Douglass have their sawmill, situated on Read's creek, nearly completed. These mills will largely increase the business of the place, and will be of great benefit to the surrounding country. Clayton

has heretofore carried on a considerable commerce in steamboat wood, obtained principally from the islands of the river near the place. These islands are swamp lands, and have recently been given to the county by the state. The county judge—in pursuance of a plain duty imposed by law—recently made a descent on the wood choppers engaged in despoiling those lands of their timber, and we learn that—either in consequence of his warnings, or of the recent thaw—the wood choppers have desisted, at least for a season. Clayton has a good steamboat landing, excellent timber in its vicinity, good building stone, and, like all the river towns of Clayton county, a good country back of it, and like all of them a bright prospect for the future.

*Garnaville*—This town is situated near the geographical centre of the county, on a high, rolling prairie, and six miles from the Mississippi. The county seat was formerly located at Prairie la Porte (now Guttenberg) but for the last ten years has been at this place. It can hardly be expected that we should boast very highly of either our commercial or manufacturing advantages, although we are in close proximity to both. We are only six miles from the Father of Waters, and have a stream only two miles distant, which affords admirable water power. A sawmill was built on this stream last fall, by our townsman B. F. Forbes, who intends building a flouring mill at no distant day. There is another sawmill being erected by Corning & Brothers a short distance below the former. There is a Court House (such as it is) at this place, one public house, five stores, four churches and one printing office, (the Herald). There are the county offices also, and several mechanic shops of the different trades. There will be several buildings erected this season, providing lumber can be obtained and we think it high time, where an ordinary log cabin rents for forty dollars a year payable semi-annually, in advance.

*Volga City*—This town is situated on the Volga, a branch of Turkey river, and is nine miles from Elkader and 25 miles from the Mississippi. It was laid out into town lots in the summer of 1852, and quite a number have been improved. The enterprising proprietors, W. H. and A. L. Gould, have already erected a sawmill and are now building a flouring mill at this place. A portion of the water power has already been applied to other mechanical purposes. It is situated on one of the main thoroughfares, leading from the interior portion of the state to the river, and will, beyond doubt make a thriving village.

*Elkport*—This town is on Turkey river, 15 miles from the Mississippi. It was laid out in 1853, but we are not in possession of sufficient information relative to the place to state with accuracy the amount of improvement which has been done. A belief has been entertained that steamboats would some day ply regularly between the mouth of the river and this place and even as high up as Elkader, but in this age of railroad progress it is very doubtful whether it would pay to make the necessary improvements to render the river available.

*Millville*—Is on Turkey river and possesses some indications of a town, although at present it is in about the same predicament that the sun was directly after the commands of Joshua. The town business is done here, and there is a flouring mill, post office, etc. It was

formerly a kind of tributary to the great town of Winchester, the whereabouts of which may be learned from some of the old maps of Iowa in about 1837, when Cassville was aspiring to be the capital of Wisconsin.

*Monona*—This place is situated on a high prairie, 12 miles from McGregor and on the main road to Fort Atkinson. It has a public house, two stores, several mechanic shops; and is surrounded by a beautiful country. We have seen no place in Iowa where the beauty of the landscape in summer was more attractive than this place.

*Elkader*—This town is on Turkey river about 16 miles from the Mississippi at Clayton, and 18 at McGregor. It was surveyed into lots in the summer of 1846. The almost unlimited water power at this place forms a nucleus around which, at no distant day, a populous and enterprising village is sure to grow, as the country around it is sure to advance in population and wealth. The enterprising firm of Thompson, Sage & Davis improved the water power, and erected a saw and flouring mill here at an early day. The latter will compare favorably both in size and workmanship, with any in the middle or northern states. We understand that they have bought this season, upwards of 30,000 bushels of wheat, which was raised in the vicinity and west of the place—the most of the crops raised in the eastern portion of the county being sold at different points on the river. Chester Sage retired from the firm last spring, and we have been informed that T. Davis, of Dubuque, has purchased the entire interest of John Thompson and will move there during the coming months. Carter & Co. and Freeman & Lawrence, are each doing an extensive mercantile business. There are one or two smaller establishments in the place, also a foundry, wagon and carriage shop, plow shop and many other kinds of mechanical business carried on, which, from appearance, we should think were doing well.

#### RIVER TRAFFIC

A picture of the eager activity of the time is given in the Herald of April 22, 1853. It says: "The river is now open to St. Peters, and boats are making their regular trips. The late rains have raised the river so that there is no difficulty in the largest boat running over the rapids and no hindrance need be anticipated for some time to come. Several boats have been through heavily loaded with freight and crowded with passengers. Most of the passengers, thus far, have been destined to the upper country, although many have stopped at different points in this county. Those who have come here report themselves as only the advance guard to what are coming this season, and, if we mistake not, many who have gone to the upper country for the purpose of locating farming lands will yet return to northern Iowa before making their investments.

"Many of our merchants are in the cities making their purchases, and some have already returned with heavy supplies, and are dealing them out at low figures. Every department of business seems to have received a new impulse, and is generating strength from day to day. Especially is this true of our river towns. The call for tenements of



different kinds was never before equal to this; anything that will pass for a house, brings a large rent, and the supply nowhere equals the demand."

The same issue gives the vote of the county as follows: For register of Des Moines improvement, H. R. Warden, 177; George Gillaspay, 265; for commissioner, Des Moines river improvement, Uriah Biggs, 83; Josiah H. Bonney, 285; for drainage commissioner, John M. Gay, 107; E. H. Hiett, 553. About half the votes of the county was polled. Testing seed corn is not such a recent fad as some may think for this paper tells that "William Schultz, one of our large and classical farmers, has shown us a sample of the corn which he saved for seed, and which he has tried, and every kernel has come well. He says that he is careful to pick his seed before the first frost, and secure it in a proper manner, and his seed has never failed since he has been in Iowa (12 years)."

*Business Conditions*—Business continued to boom and in May the Herald sounded a note of triumph as follows: Strangers are continually coming among us seeking locations, and real estate is changing hands rapidly. The Excelsior, that model boat as her name indicates, has just passed up the river with a heavy load of freight and passengers. We understand that over one hundred passengers left the boat at the different river towns in this county, most of whom were in search of locations for farming purposes, and hailed from the Keystone State. The Excelsior is but one of six or seven first class boats (besides several smaller ones) which run in the upper trade this season, and nearly all come loaded to the guards with freight and passengers, a large proportion of which are prepared to make permanent settlements among us. Our merchants generally have bought much larger stocks than usual; the most of them are just receiving their goods, some are yet absent making their purchases, and one firm, who b't very early, have already ordered and received in store a large additional supply from New York by express. Our villages have thrown off their old garments, (not very old they were, either, but still nearly old enough for some of them to become hide-bound in) and have gone to work in earnest to improve their appearances, not in the way of selling lots at exorbitant prices, but with the trowel, plane, saw, and brush. Many large and permanent buildings are being erected, which would do credit to any town in the northwest. In short, business of all kinds has received an additional impulse approaching one hundred per cent over any former precedent. That which was considered doubtful yesterday proves tenable to-day and requires an increase to-morrow; and so it will doubtless continue until some great crash in the monetary affairs of the commercial system shall put a check to the wheels of progress for the time being, and which may come next year, or perhaps not in the next ten years, and possibly not even then.

The ever increasing activity is shown by the establishment of a semi-weekly stage between Guttenberg and Garnaville which was hailed with great delight. The mining interests at Guttenberg were considered of much importance and the prospects were thought to be most promising, as is shown by the following statement: "We are

informed by Mayor Kriebs that the mines in the bluff directly back of the town are being worked to good advantage, Dr. Lodowick having raised as much as fifteen hundred pounds of mineral in one day. This is pretty good, with the price of mineral at \$25 and \$30 per 1,000 lbs. We are told that this mineral yields 82 per cent of lead. The diggings on Miners Creek are yielding sufficient to pay well for working them. The smelting furnaces are both doing a good business. Mr. Kriebs also informs us that the people of Guttenberg have voted a tax for the purpose of building a large schoolhouse, costing from \$2,000 to \$3,000; proposals for building will be advertised for in a week or two. The diggings on Miners Creek are paying fair wages. We were told by Mr. Holmes, that he had a prospect from which he and a hand were taking out from five to seven hundred pounds a day. We understood that Guttenberg corporation scrip brings ninety cents on the dollar, with the prospect of bringing dollar for dollar in a short time. So far as we had opportunity for observing, the mechanics, the laborers, the farmers, miners and merchants are prospering, business is flourishing, and every thing gives evidence of a favorable business season.

*Immigration*—The Herald gives a glowing account of the times saying, "there never was a time in any portion of the west, when the country was settling with greater rapidity than northern Iowa is at this time. The whole country, from 60 to 100 miles west of the Mississippi, is literally alive with immigrants; where the buffalo and other wild game roamed in comparative security today, tomorrow the cabin of the pioneer, is seen rising in their midst, and ere they become settled upon new grounds, they are again frightened from them by the rising of domiciles of the settlers. New farms are being opened in every direction, and where government holds the title today, tomorrow may be seen unmistakable signs of a farm, a village, a mill, or something else which denotes the immediate transposition from the cradle to the advanced stage of civilization. Close after the pioneer, who opens his farm 60 miles from market in 1853, follows the capitalist to invest his surplus in building a railroad to transport the surplus product of the farmer to market in 1854; and forsooth, while the older inhabitants of the older states hear of a new section of country brought into the market, and the sturdy settler bending his way thither, from associations of ideas relative to the many sufferings incident to the settlement of a new country when they were young, drop a tear in sympathy for their affliction, which, ere it dries, finds them surrounded by all the necessities and often many of the luxuries of the older states. There never was a time before in this country, when every legitimate business seems so prosperous as at present. It seems as if the magic wand of the conjurer had passed over us, and produced a perfect commotion in all the departments of business, unparalleled perhaps, in the annals of the west. We learn from the most reliable authority that there are in this, Allamakee, Winneshiek and Fayette counties at least 40 saw and flouring mills to be built this season, or as soon as labor sufficient can be procured. At present there is a great scarcity of mechanics, especially carpenters, joiners, masons,

and millwrights and unless some can be procured from abroad, much of the building will have to be deferred.

# FIRST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

In July, 1853, the Herald began a campaign for the organization of an agricultural society. This was continued from week to week and finally resulted in a meeting held at Garnavillo on Friday, August 5, at which the first steps were taken for the organization of the society which has proved so helpful to the county. E. H. Williams was chairman and H. S. Granger secretary. The committee to draft a constitution and solicit members was as follows: T. Davis, chairman, Robert Smith, Dennis Quigley, J. C. Tremain, Jon. Noble, John W. Potts, John Barnett, J. W. Griffith, Eliphalet Price, F. A. Olds, M. L. Fisher, L. Bigelow, P. P. Olmstead, and Joshua Jackson. On September 10 a meeting was held at Garnavillo at which the constitution was adopted, giving as one of the purposes the holding of an annual fair and Samuel Murdock was elected president, H. S. Granger, secretary, and L. S. McHollister of Farmersburg, treasurer.

An interesting statement showing the rapid growth of the county is found in a comparative table taken from the assessment roll. In 1852, the county contained 1,227 horses, 5,060 cattle, 15 mules, 1,650 sheep, 6,019 swine. The number of acres occupied by settlers was 318,581 and the assessed value \$707,323. In 1853, these had increased to the following figures, horses 1,560, cattle 5,267, mules, 23, sheep 2,235, swine 8,353, land held, 343,933 acres, assessed value \$1,007,665. This was an increase in value of 56 per cent in a single year.

*Vote of 1853*—At the election held in August, 1853, Sanford L. Peck defeated John M. Gay by a close vote, the vote by precincts being as follows:

	Sanford L. Peck.	John M. Gay.
Wagner .....	22	10
Sperry .....	20	27
Monona .....	30	20
Buena Vista.....	15	21
Garnavillo .....	51	44
Mallory .....	21	8
Cass .....	17	10
Farmersburg .....	28	35
Mendon .....	14	30
	218	205

The returns from the following townships were rejected on account of irregularity.

	Sanford L. Peck.	John M. Gay.
Jefferson .....	47	19
Lodomillo .....	18	18
Volga .....	20	13
Millville .....	23	14
Boardman .....	66	39
	174	103



The following officers received almost the whole number of votes cast: Sheriff, Thos. G. Drips; Surveyor, Ezra Hurd; Drainage Commissioner, E. H. Hiatt; Coroner, Alexander Blake. "The vote," adds the Herald, "was small, owing to the fact that election comes at the season when the farmers are engaged with their harvest, and will not spare the time to engage in politics."

#### MC GREGOR'S PROPERTY

The Herald for 1853, contains many items showing the growth of the county at various points. Concerning McGregor a contributor says: "You would be surprised at the improvement going on here. I have not time to particularize, but will tell you in time for next paper. H. D. Evans, I understand, is commencing to build a warehouse 100 by 70 feet, four stories high. Mr. Carlin, of the 'Iowa House,' is also building an addition to his house. About a mile from here, on the Garnavillo road, I fell in with Mr. Riley, who is a perfect specimen of an Iowa pioneer. On the 10th of April last, he tented in the woods, now he has five acres under cultivation, with a first rate crop of corn, potatoes, turnips, etc., has a good log house, and conveniences, all accomplished by his own willing hands. He also manufactures a washing machine, which needs only to be seen to be appreciated."

#### BUSY GUTTENBERG

The progress of Guttenberg is shown by the following: "Everybody is busy, and the place looks prosperous. At the sale of the front lots on the 16ult., four lots were 'leased for a term of twenty years, for warehouse purposes,' at (as we understand) a rent of \$40 per annum. Messrs. Fleck & Bros. have already commenced building a warehouse on the river bank,—in front of their store,—fifty by seventy-five feet, three and a half stories high. J. P. Kriebs also contemplates building a warehouse. The new school-house is under contract. It will cost \$1,700 to \$2,000. Several new dwelling houses are being erected and finished; the brick house of Mr. Treppahne and that of Mr. Rodemier being the two largest. The diggings in the bluff are not worked at present, on account of the warm weather. The furnaces were both out of blast; but the Messrs. Fleck intended to commence smelting on Monday last. Mineral is purchased for both furnaces, at prices ranging from \$25 to \$30 per 1,000 lbs."

*Lead Mining*—Mining was one of the important industries and a visit to Buena Vista made by the Herald editor tells of conditions there. "We paid a visit to Buena Vista last week. There is but little doing in the mines, owing to sickness among the miners. Mineral was selling at \$32 per 1,000 lbs. E. C. Forbes and B. White are both doing a pretty large business in the mercantile line, and the former is dealing extensively in wheat." It was during this year that a steam sawmill was built at Clayton by the enterprising firm of Frank Smith & Co. while Monona boasted a new hotel. This was called Egbert's Hotel and is described as new, large and commodious.

COUNTY FINANCE

The finances of the county at this time are shown by the following statement by Judge Williams:

The total expenditures of Clayton county for	
the year ending July 4th, 1853, is.....	\$4,668.04
The credits are:	
Taxes on property collected.....	\$5,118.98
Taxes on property delinquent.....	4,118.29
Poll tax collected.....	406.00
Poll tax delinquent.....	62.00
Due from Swamp Lands.....	95.50
Fees of County Officers.....	1,237.42
	<hr/>
	\$7,338.17
Assets on expenditure.....	2,670.15
County debt, not including interest.....	2,277.59
Including interest it will not exceed.....	3,000.00
Estimated income of next year.....	9,300.00
Estimated expenditure of next year.....	5,000.00

A tax of five mills this year will enable the accounting officers to nearly, if not quite, wipe out the indebtedness of the county. We congratulate the citizens and tax-payers of this county upon the above favorable exhibit of the indebtedness of the county, which has been furnished us by the County Judge. The tax for this year will be  $7\frac{3}{4}$  mills on the dollar, as follows: five for county purposes, one and one-fourth for state, one for road, and one-half for school. Should the calculation of receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year prove correct, (and we think they may be relied on), Clayton county will no longer have to pay bonus on her credit, but when a dollar is issued to pay one, and not two dollars, being "salted down," drawing interest at six per cent, to be drawn out when they are at par value.

*Mails*—The carrying of the mails was of vital importance. During the navigation season, mail was brought up the river, but the main dependence for all the countryside was in the network of stage lines which, by 1853, had been developed into an extensive system. The rapid development of the county, with new settlements constantly springing up, made the addition of new routes frequently necessary and often times the settlers grew impatient because postal facilities failed to keep pace with their advancement. Throughout all of these earlier years the newspapers are constantly complaining of the mail service, suggesting changes of schedule and urging new routes. The condition of the mail service in 1853, may be gleaned from the following, taken from the Herald of October 7: "We notice that increased service has been asked for on the route from Monona to Lansing, and also that the route should be so changed as to connect either at Farmersburg or Garnaville instead of Monona. The winter will soon be upon us, when mail service by the way of the river will be suspended, and there is no doubt but that the wants of the country are sufficient to justify the department in granting increased service, both on this

and also on the route from here to Decorah. There is also a great want of a general revision of the mails in this portion of the state. The mails which we now have might answer a much better purpose than they now do, if they only connected in proper manner. For instance, a man at Clayton wishes to send an important business letter to West Union, and it so happens that he wishes to send it on Monday. What are the mail facilities for getting it there? He writes his letter, deposits it in the Post Office and Saturday it comes to this place; but the western mail went out on Friday, so it lays over here until the following Friday when it goes to Elkader; but it does not get there until four o'clock, and the mail left for West Union in the morning; so it lies there until the following Friday, when lo and behold it arrives at its destination twenty-one days from the time it was written—a distance of only forty miles! And in one week from the following Saturday he gets his answer, making in all precisely thirty days. During this time, if the writer should be expert at traveling, he may step over and pay his respects to Queen Victoria, and return in time to receive his answer and proceed to business."

*A Pioneer Mail Carrier*—One of the earliest mail carriers in the county was Jeremiah Roser, who as a boy, under sixteen, carried the mail on horse back from Dubuque to Jacksonville in the winter of 1844-45. He made the trip twice a week carrying the mail in his saddle bag. He followed the territorial road from Dubuque, almost his entire journey being through the timber, which was full of wild turkey, deer and wolves, while bear were not infrequent and often the sinister face of an Indian peered at the little messenger from the thick underbrush. There were but four post offices between Dubuque and Jacksonville. The first of these was Recordville, which consisted of a mortised hole in an oak tree by the roadside, into which Jerry placed the mail for the few timber dwellers thereabout. His next stop was at Floyd's Tavern and he then reached Clayton county, and, passing the Quigley sawmill at Millville, he went to the post office known as Turkey River, with Isaac H. Preston as post master. The messenger spent the night at Millville and then took the Indian trail through the brush to Prairie la Porte. Then northwest on the trail to Eli Carlin's and over the prairie road to Jacksonville.

Reuben Noble was post master at Jacksonville at the time, and Mrs. Noble took good care of the little messenger at the end of his long journey. On one occasion he arrived with both hands and feet frozen. It speaks well for the honesty of the community that he was unmolested on these lonely trips except on one occasion when there was an attempt made to hold him up near the Turkey River postoffice one day when he was carrying \$400 in gold from a Clayton county settler to the land office at Dubuque. The contract time called for the arrival of the mail at Jacksonville at 12 o'clock on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the messenger was required to leave, on his return journey, at 2 o'clock of the same days. Prepayment of postage was not required and rates were high. An old envelope, still in existence shows the address, "Jacksonville, Clayton County, Iowa Territory." On the envelope is marked the amount of postage due, being 18¾ cents.



*Description of County*—Mr. Granger, the Herald editor, made a lengthy journey in 1853, canvassing for subscriptions to his new paper. Speaking of McGregor he says, "Everybody was busy, building, repairing, cleaning, merchandising, ferrying, and everything else that tends to make a people happy, wise and rich. The amount of freight landed at this point is almost incredible, and the number of emigrants that cross the Mississippi at the ferry is really surprising. Leaving town we crossed the bluffs to the upper ferry wood, and this same crossing of the bluffs was an enterprise of no little difficulty and danger—difficulty in keeping the trail, and danger of getting tumbled into the turbid waters of Bloody Run. A large number of settlers are located on the road between the river and Monona, many of whom have good farms opened out, have considerable stock, and seemed to be living comfortably. George Shober presented us with some good apples grown on his farm; he is one of the few who believes that apples and other fruit will grow in Clayton county. The merchants of Monona are doing a considerable amount of business; the Messrs. Harding have erected and are now finishing a large building, and Mr. Egbert has removed his stock to the new store room adjoining the hotel. Taking the old military road to Fort Atkinson, we passed a number of farms, on many of which houses are being erected and improvements made."

*Boom Days at Clayton*—We cannot close this picture of the county as its first newspaper found it without including the further description of Clayton as given by Mr. Granger. "Three years ago, when we first saw the place, we were on a trip from St. Louis to St. Paul, and in search of a location for a home in the west. At that time Frank Smith & Co. had just opened a store in a part of the building they now occupy, and there was then but one family in the place. In short, it presented to a stranger the appearance of a small wood-yard, with no visible prospect of ever being anything more. At this time the above firm keeps a large stock and sells both at wholesale and retail, it also does considerable in the storage, forwarding and commission business, has a steam sawmill nearly completed and intends erecting a steam flouring mill, perhaps, next season. It also has a good horse ferry boat which is kept busy. Park & Rogers have a large brick storage, forwarding and commission house, also a large wooden building. They also have a brick store and a large two-story brick dwelling house. There are two good hotels in the place. J. H. Duncan first built a two-story building, as a store and dwelling, but lacking room he has erected a dwelling and will use the first building for a store altogether. There are several brick dwellings and many substantial wooden ones, besides a large number of smaller ones. There is a wagon and carriage shop, sash, door and blind factory, blacksmith, tinner and cabinet shop. A little back from the street, among the trees and near a babbling brook, is the domicile of the pedagogue, where a school is continued the greater portion of the year."

*Bridge Building*—Toward the close of the year the question of a bridge across Turkey river became a "burning issue" in the county. The necessity for the bridge was recognized, but the location was the object of much strife. Judge Williams took the bull by the horns in

1854 and announced that a tax would be levied for a bridge across the lower Turkey river, provided the citizens in the vicinity also subscribed. In a communication relative to the bridge question, "Tam O' Shanter" gives an interesting side light on county affairs. He states that "we have been laboring under an oppressive tax, levied to pay the debts of the county which consisted of county orders which were bought by capitalists at a discount of 50 per cent and presented at the treasury where they were cashed at par." John P. Kriebs signs an advertisement calling a meeting at Guttenberg of those interested in the bridge project. Elkader, however, did not propose to wait for any bridge, and this enterprising town began the building of a steam boat for the navigation of the Turkey. Concerning this the Herald says, "as novel as the idea may seem, it is nevertheless true that a steamboat is now being built at Elkader, Adam Keen, the energetic proprietor has been engaged for some years past in the foundry business at that place, with his brother, George Keen, and he is now embarked in this new enterprise. The whole boat is to be built there. He has superintended the building of the engine, which is nearly completed and the contract is let for building the boat."

*Prosperous Years*—Beginning a new volume of his paper Mr. Granger tells of conditions in the county, saying "we find everything in a highly prosperous condition in our own county and vicinity. The farmers are now selling their last year's crops at high prices, with no immediate prospect of a decline. Business of all kinds is becoming active; almost everything has an upward and onward tendency. We can hardly hear from any portion of the county without hearing of improvements being planned and some already begun which are of the most permanent character. According to a statement published, in 1854, Clayton county was, in 1853, the thirteenth county in the state in point of wealth.

*Bridge Controversies*—The bridge question continued to agitate the county. J. W. Griffith presided at a Guttenberg meeting. E. Price offered resolutions, whereupon, "an able and interesting discussion took place between Mr. Price and Mr. Noble, when said resolutions were withdrawn." Judge Williams was appointed as a committee on location. Meetings were also held at the Colony House at which the location at Peck's ferry was advocated. At a meeting at Guttenberg, February 25, Judge Williams reported in favor of a location at Peck's Ferry. E. Price moved that the judge be requested to procure estimates of cost, but, "this motion was seized as an opportunity by those dissatisfied with the selection to express their disapprobation and was lost by a vote of more than two to one—a very large majority of the Germans of Guttenberg voting against it." At the close of this meeting Dr. H. Hoffbauer gave notice of another meeting in protest. This was held, F. W. Helmich presiding and Jacob Nicklaus acting as secretary. At this meeting a bridge at Pearson's Place was favored and the following were among the resolutions passed: "That we will not apply our money, or a particle of it, to any other point on Turkey river, at this time, and that we will not hear any influence or inducements to any other point. That we have a better claim on the county money in Judge Williams' hands, as we are citizens



of Clayton county, and the majority of the friends of Peck's Place are citizens of Delaware and Dubuque county. That we are ready to build a bridge—as is a bridge—across the Turkey river at Pearson's place, independent."

March 3, 1854, four new townships were added, Giard, Clayton, Highland, and Cox Creek. The boundaries were substantially as they are today. On March 17, the Herald sounds a note of joy, for the river is open. A boat is expected that week and Capt. Smith is daily expected at Guttenberg with a full load of emigrants—his new boat having been chartered at Cincinnati for that purpose. At this time A. Kinney reports that the road between Monona and the state line is thronged with new comers, and that the public houses are literally crammed full every night.

*Political Affairs*—In 1854, Clayton county was first honored by the nomination of one of its citizens for a state office. Hon. Eliphalet Price was nominated by the Whigs for state treasurer. In a letter full of wit Mr. Price declines the nomination and he states that he cannot live on a salary of \$400 a year, which is \$100 less than is paid the treasurer of Clayton county. The election, held April, 1854, resulted as follows: Superintendent, J. D. Eads, 331; I. I. Stewart, 281; Clerk, R. R. Read, 506; E. H. Hiett, 183; School Fund Commissioner, H. S. Granger, 938; Drainage Commissioner, Joseph McSperrin, 41; David Mann, 23.

Dr. F. Andros was at this time appointed as Government physician to the Winnebago Indians in Minnesota and the Minnesota News tells of his journey as follows: "Our old friend Dr. Andros, Garnovillo, Iowa, arrived in this city Saturday last, having traveled through from Iowa on the west side of the Mississippi with a span of horses and a buggy. This is, we believe, the first overland trip which has ever been made with a team on this route. With the exception of one night, spent at Chatfield they had camp fare the entire distance. They saw only one human being between Chatfield and Mendota, and that one was an Indian."

*Annals of 1854*—It is reported that "stock of every kind is selling at unprecedented prices. There has been quite an active demand for work cattle and milch cows for the country north of us, and some are to be taken as high up as the great bend of the St. Peters. Working oxen are selling at from \$100 to \$125 per yoke; cows from \$25 to \$40; and as for horses, there is no use naming a price, for neither love nor money will hardly buy one." Another glimpse of the prosperity of the time is found in an item relating to river traffic. It says, "persons have to remain in our river towns a week before they can get passage for themselves and a small lot of freight. Every boat that comes up is loaded to the guards with freight, and crowded with passengers. Emigration to and through this county has never before been equal to this season. Real estate is constantly changing hands. The emigrants appear to be well off in this world's goods and of the right stamp for a new country."

The Democrats had the only effective political organization in the county prior to 1854. At their convention held at Garnaville, May 13, Thomas L. Freeman was chairman and H. S. Granger, secretary; dele-



gates elected to the congressional convention were J. P. Kreibs, A. C. Woodworth, Jacob Hoarsch, Daniel Lowe, S. R. Peet and B. F. Fox; senatorial delegates were Maturin L. Fisher, Thomas L. Freeman, and Harvey Egbert. In June, 1854, appears the announcement and premium list for the first county fair to be held in October. Premiums were offered for grains, vegetables, fruits, butter, cheese and live stock. There were also premiums for the best plow and the best wagon manufactured in the county and also for the best woolen cloth and woolen yarns made in Clayton county.

In June, 1854, the county was shocked by an attack upon Sheriff Drips, who was knocked senseless on the deck of the boat Henrietta when he attempted to serve papers on the officers at McGregor. He was set adrift on a log raft near Clayton and might have died but for three passengers who left the boat and rescued him. A new post-office was established at Grand Meadow, with Lynus Edson as postmaster. Guttenberg was growing very fast; among the improvements were a three-story warehouse by the Messrs. Fleck and a large stone store building by Mr. Alburtus. New stores on Front street were a cigar store, C. Scherling's harness shop, Falkenhainer's hardware store, Schmee & Nolte's general store and Ceilfus' clothing store. At McGregor things were booming. It is stated that there were, at one time, 150 wagons on the opposite side of the river waiting to cross. The boat running between McGregor and Prairie du Chien was taken down to assist, and even then the emigrants could not be taken across as fast as they arrived on the opposite shore. A settler living on the main road from McGregor to the back country counted, in one week, 329 wagons, 1,456 head of cattle, 50 span of horses, 480 sheep, 324 hogs and 7 mules passing his house on the way westward. Describing this great rush of emigrants, the Crawford County (Wis.) Courier says: "There is a ferry across the Mississippi some five miles below here called the Junction ferry; there is a ferry plying between the lower town of Prairie du Chien and McGregor; there is still another ferry which plies between the upper steamboat landing and a point below the mouth of Yellow river. Each of these ferries employs a horse-boat and is crowded all the time with emigrants for Iowa. Some times the emigrants have to encamp near the ferry two or three days to await their chance of crossing in the order of their arrival. They come in crowds a mile long—they come with wagon-loads of household fixings, with droves of cattle and flocks of sheep—they come from every land that ever sent an adventurer westward, and the cry is 'still they come.'" It is no wonder that with such an oncoming tide of settlers bringing wealth of all kinds with them that times in Clayton county were prosperous.

Among the interesting items in the Herald of June 30, 1854, are the following: B. F. Forbes is improving the Western hotel; Mr. Keen has succeeded in running his steamboat down Turkey river as far as the dam at Hasting's bottom and back to Elkader. The sheriff has recovered and has amicably arranged his difficulties with the officers of the boat. There are now three sawmills on Buck creek—Forbes', Corning's and Clark's; a steam mill at Guttenberg and one at Clayton, and McCloud's and Sturm's on Sny Magill. The Lutheran

congregation at Garnaville installed the first church bell in the county and are erecting a parsonage for their preacher, who is just returning from Chicago with his bride. P. F. Walton was murdered by a knife wound by John White at McGregor.

#### ANTI-SLAVERY AGITATION

The first mention of the great controversy concerning slavery which was to divide the North and South appears in a little item on July 14, 1854, to the effect that "a convention of the people of Clayton county opposed to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise will be held at Elkader tomorrow at 1 o'clock."

On July 7 the democrats held their county convention at Guttenberg; for candidates for the legislature the vote stood: Lafayette Bigelow, 19; Thomas L. Freeman (whose death occurred three days later), 8; John T. Kriebs, 7; S. R. Peet, 16, and J. W. Potts, 8. Bigelow and Peet were declared the nominees. Robert R. Read was the unanimous nominee for clerk. The "Anti-Nebraska" convention, held at Elkader, was attended by more than 200, fifteen townships being represented. J. T. H. Scott presided. Speeches were made by Timothy Davis, Reuben Noble and E. H. Williams. Lafayette Bigelow and Reuben Noble were nominated for the legislature.

#### FIRST RESOLUTIONS

The preamble of the resolutions stated: "We, citizens of Clayton county, recognizing each other as members of different political creeds, have assembled here in mass convention upon the common platform of freedom to demand a restoration of that freedom bequeathed to the territories of Nebraska and Kansas by the solemn act of our forefathers. Resolved, that the repeal of the Missouri Compromise has aroused and strengthened the slave power of the South, who are now demanding a repeal of the act of congress prohibiting the importation of slaves from Africa, and who in their late triumphant exaltation unhesitatingly proclaim that slavery is the natural condition of a portion of mankind, and that it is destined, slowly, but with certainty, to override the free institutions of the Union wherever they may exist. That from this time forward we will make no concession to, nor compromises with, the institution of slavery, but will demand, and continue to demand of our law-making representatives, until obtained, a restoration of the Missouri Compromise and a repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law. That we will support no man for public office—let him be called Whig, Democrat or Abolitionist—who is opposed to the restoration of freedom to the territories of Nebraska and Kansas. We request the nominees of this convention to stump the county. We absolve ourselves from all issues of the different political parties with which we have formerly acted, and do now unite upon the common platform of freedom to all mankind."

A Clayton county vigilance committee was appointed and consisted of the following members: V. R. Miller, Mendon; Clark Wood, Farmersburg; A. L. Fuller, Boardman; C. P. Goodrich, Jefferson; F.

Hartge, Volga; Jonathan Noble, Lodomillo; Dr. Dunn, Sperry; J. C. Tremain, Cass; D. M. Zearley, Elk; H. L. Schutte, Garnavillo; John Beady, Grand Meadow; B. White, Buena Vista; L. V. Collins, Girard; M. Stahl, Wagner; J. Robbins, Highland; A. Clark, Cox Creek; Alva C. Rogers, Clayton; Joseph McSperrin, Mallory; J. W. Griffith, Millville; P. P. Olmstead, Monona. J. J. Kinzel and E. H. Williams were the secretaries of this convention. Thus spoke the voice of freemen for freedom. Off in the prairies and the woods of Iowa, their daily lives unaffected, they, nevertheless, 200 of them, left their homes and farms to issue this ringing declaration for liberty. These names, each and all of them, should be inscribed upon the roll of honor of Clayton county. That this was the birth of the Republican party in Clayton county is incidental, for, while others were slow to be aroused, within a few years the whole county stood shoulder to shoulder fighting together for liberty and union, with partisanship thrown to the winds. Mr. Bigelow had already been nominated by the Democrats, but his views were satisfactory to the convention. Reuben Noble following the instructions of the convention that its nominees should stump the county, at once issued a list of appointments, speaking at fourteen points in the county.

*Grand Meadow Meeting*—The honor of holding the first convention opposing the extension of slavery must, however, be accorded to Grand Meadow. A meeting composed of citizens of Fayette, Winnesiek, Allamakee and Clayton counties was held in Grand Meadow township, near Postville, on July 8. John Laughlin was president and G. L. Henderson secretary. Stirring resolutions were adopted, including the following: "That as the people of the state of Iowa have declared in the first article of their constitution that all men are by nature free and equal, we are solemnly bound to stand by these declarations, come what may, by refusing to recognize the existence of any man as a slave upon the soil of Iowa. That that which is not just is not law and that which is not law ought not to be obeyed; therefore the Fugitive Slave Law is deserving of neither obedience nor respect. We earnestly solicit all true Republicans to unite with us for the purpose of electing such men as will vote for and maintain the principles contained in these resolutions." In these resolutions the word "republican" as applied to a political party appears for the first time in print in Clayton county.

H. S. Granger, editor of the Herald had been a Democrat, but he stated editorially that "animation can never be restored to the two great parties until the seed of corruption becomes completely eradicated from what is now known as free territory, and until it becomes completely walled and hedged in to its own legitimate and constitutional limits. Its (slavery's) origin is most clearly traced to the devil himself, and hence it is full of iniquity, and justice demands Congress to say, 'Thus far shalt thou come, and no farther.'"

Curtis Bates was the Democratic candidate for Governor, Stephen Hempstead for Congress and David S. Wilson for state Senator. On the Anti-Nebraska ticket James W. Grimes was the candidate for Governor, James Thorington for Congress and W. W. Hamilton for state Senator. O. F. Stevens was the Anti-Nebraska candidate for



prosecuting attorney. The campaign was bitterly contested and the result in Clayton county was as follows: A sweeping victory for the Anti-Nebraska party; for Governor, J. W. Grimes 687, Curtis Bates 332; Congress, James Thorington 694, Stephen Hempstead 329; Senator, W. W. Hamilton 689, D. S. Wilson 310; Representative, L. Bigelow 743, R. Noble 726, S. R. Peet 340.

*Current Events*—In August, 1854, two of the prominent citizens of the county became involved in a personal altercation, as the result of which Harrison Boardman inflicted two serious knife wounds upon John Garber. Boardman attempted to escape, but was captured and Garber was taken to the public house kept by Mr. Killam. Mr. Garber afterward recovered. On August 11, H. S. Granger sold the *Garnavillo Herald* to A. W. Drips, who had been associated with him for some time as a printer. Mr. Drips continued the *Herald* and made it a splendid newspaper, considering the times and the opportunities. He was always loyal to his friends and to the community. Starting with limited means, it is fairly pitiful to see the brave struggle he made to be cheerful and optimistic as the hard times of the succeeding years closed in on him. He was one of the bright, brave spirits of the pioneer days and did his full share for the development of Clayton county.

*County Improvements*—The county finances of this time were in excellent condition, the outstanding warrants amounting to but \$1,546.70, which Judge Williams declared would be entirely wiped out by the taxes of 1854. The persistence of the Germans at Guttenberg finally won out, for the *Herald* says: "We understand that an additional force has been put to work on the bridge at Judge Pearson's place and we hope soon to hear of the rapid progress of the work." At the same time the citizens of Clayton were busy building a road through their hills to the back country, Alva C. Rogers, Frank Smith and John M. Ballou being the committee who advertised for bids for this work. Among the evidences of increased growth were the establishment of a new mill route from Delhi to Garnavillo via Colesburg; the opening of a new postoffice, called High Grove, between Elkader and Highland, with Capt. A. H. Pool as postmaster; the establishment of a new stage line, leaving Dubuque on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and arriving at Garnavillo the same day. Among the improvements noted at Garnavillo is a dwelling by Mr. Spicer, the new office of Noble and Granger, located next to the *Herald* office, an addition to the hotel, the new Odd Fellows hall and the residences of Mr. Hurd, Dr. Linton and the Lutheran parsonage.

*First County Fair*—The first county fair in Clayton county was held Oct. 3, 1854, just three weeks before the first Iowa state fair. The praise given for this first fair by the *Herald* was but faint. Among the ladies making exhibits were Mrs. P. M. Potter, Mrs. Drips, Mrs. J. B. Sargeant, Mrs. A. B. Scott of Clayton, Miss Lizzie Oldes and Mrs. E. H. Williams. Mrs. Murdock and Miss Drips won prizes in the preserved fruit department. The prize baby was Mary Stella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. H. Jacobs, of Clayton. Prizes for grain were won as follows: Wheat, George Pearson; barley, Wm. Schulte; corn and potatoes, Michael Uriell.

*Marts and Markets*—A statement of the amount of wheat pur-

chased for the season at Elkader shows that Thompson & Davis bought 44,000 bushels, at an average cost of 65 cents; Freeman & Lawrence, 7,000 bushels, at an average cost of 80 cents, and E. G. Rolf, 1,109 bushels at 75 cents, making a total of \$35,031.75 paid at Elkader. The Herald believes Clayton purchased twice that amount. Describing a journey through the county, the editor says of Elkader: "We found everybody busy and business of all kinds thriving. The foundry, we learn, is doing a very large amount of work. Squire Rolf and Carter & Co. are doing a heavy business. Some idea may be formed of the mercantile business transacted in Elkader when we state that since the 1st of April last there were sold nearly \$100,000 worth of goods. Elkader has a cabinet-maker's shop, a chair and bedstead factory, tinner's shop, dauguerrean saloon, etc. The new store of Mr. Rolf, the brick store of Freeman & Lawrence and the stone building of Hobson & Davis are all handsome, durable structures." The Herald of Sept. 29 also notes that D. G. Rogers has sold the brick store at Garnavillo to C. W. Hagensick & Co. and that Rogers goes to Clayton to conduct business under the firm name of Rogers & Stoddard.

*Miscellaneous Events*—The Methodist appointments for the county are given as follows: Garnavillo, Joseph Cameron; Hardin, Isaac Newton; Elkader Mission, Charles M. Session. By this time deer were scarce enough to be worthy of newspaper mention, and it is noted that H. H. Chesnut of Clayton township killed a fine buck weighing 209 pounds. In October a postoffice at Giard was established, with Isaac Mathew as postmaster. Clayton shows great business activity, G. Douglas was doing good business with a sash and door factory; L. Hodges conducted the "Gothic Hotel," Nicholas Kriebs, J. G. Jerome, Rogers & Stoddard, Clark, Rogers & Co. and Frank Smith & Co. are mentioned among the merchants. The shipments of grain from Clayton are given as: Wheat 62,000 bushels, oats 24,000 bushels, barley 5,000 bushels, corn 9,000 bushels. From April 1 to October 25, 1854, there were 508 steamboat arrivals, to which were sold 2,400 cords of wood and which landed 2,200 passengers. The steam sawmill employed ten hands, and there were other industries, all of which were booming. Concerning Guttenberg, there are the following items: A steam sawmill was burned to the ground the latter part of October, but will be rebuilt at the mouth of Miners' creek; Fleck & Bros. bought during the season 15,000 bushels of wheat, 2,500 bushels of oats, 1,500 bushels of corn, 7,000 bushels of barley, 1,500 bushels of potatoes, 3,000 dozen eggs at 9 cents per dozen, 9,000 pounds of butter and other produce. The leading exports were 300,000 pounds and the price between \$4 and \$6 per hundred, 2,000 cords of wood were sold to steamboats during the season. In the fall of 1854 began the great slump in prices which presaged the hard times of the succeeding years. The price of wheat at Clayton fell 20 cents in a single week, and the market quotations for Nov. 17, 1854, at Clayton, were: Wheat 55 cents to 60 cents, oats 20 cents, barley \$1, corn 25 cents, shelled 30 cents, butter 18 cents, eggs 10 cents.

Mention is made of the new town of Highland, 11 miles west of Elkader. It is said that this town was laid out by A. W. Holbrock in the summer of 1854. It had a public house, a store and a post-

office, and other buildings were contemplated. A semi-weekly stage from Elkader to West Union, passing through High Grove, Highland and Elyria, afforded the mail service. Judge Williams appointed B. F. Schroeder as swamp land commissioner, and the swamp lands were offered for sale in January, 1855.

*Clayton a State Power*—The election, at which the free soil men of Clayton county rallied in such force, bore important fruit. In Congress no voice from Iowa had been raised against the extension of slavery until James Harlan and James Thorington took their seats. Elected by a union of the free soil, Whigs and Abolitionists, they were the first Iowa Congressmen to oppose the growing aggression of the slavery power. The fifth General Assembly, which met at Iowa City, was one of the most important sessions of an Iowa legislature, and Clayton county had the honor of having the presiding officer both in the House and in the Senate. Maturin L. Fisher of Farmersburg, a Democrat, was elected president of the Senate, and Reuben Noble of Garnavillo, was speaker of the House. It so happened that Mr. Noble, as speaker, played a very important role in the election of the United States Senator. Gue's History of Iowa gives the following story of this exciting contest: "On the 13th of December the General Assembly met in joint convention to elect a United States Senator. Two ballots were taken without an election, when the convention adjourned till the next day, at which time the convention adjourned to the 21st, without taking a vote on the election of Senator. A. C. Dodge and Edward Johnston received the votes of most of the Democrats, while the Whig and Free Soil members divided their votes among seven candidates, the most prominent of which were Fitz Henry Warren, James B. Howell, Ebenezer Cook and James Harlan. On the 21st three votes were taken for Senator. On the third ballot Harlan had 37 votes, Dodge 43, Cook 7. On the fifth ballot Harlan received 45 votes, Cook 44, scattering 8. The Democrats, being in a minority, had no chance to elect a member of their own party, and as Cook was a conservative Whig and Harlan a Free Soil Whig, most of them, on the fifth ballot, voted for Cook, hoping to elect him over Harlan. The convention now adjourned to January 5. On the seventh ballot Harlan received 47 votes, Cook 29, W. D. Browning 19. The convention then decided to proceed to the election of Supreme Judges. After several ballots were taken without an election the convention adjourned to the next day, when the Senate (which was Democratic) met and, by strict party vote, adjourned to Monday, to avoid meeting the House in joint convention at the time agreed upon, proposing thus to invalidate any election that might be made. When the time arrived to which the joint convention had adjourned, the Whig Senators entered the House and Reuben Noble, as speaker, announced that the joint convention was then in session. Mr. Samuels raised the point that the convention was not properly convened; Mr. Noble overruled the point and ordered the roll called. Most of the Democratic members absented themselves or refused to answer to the call. Fifty-seven members answered, however, making a majority of the joint convention. The president of the Senate, Mr. Fisher, being absent, W. W. Hamilton was elected to fill the position. A vote was then taken for



United States Senator. James Harlan received 52 votes to four scattering and was declared elected for six years, from March 4, 1855."

It was thus that the little mass convention called at Elkader contributed to the election of the first Senator from Iowa who dared to stand up and fight against the extension of slavery.

Among the other important acts of this legislature, both branches of which were presided over by men from Clayton county, were the location of the state capital at Des Moines; provision for a state geological survey; the establishment of an asylum for the deaf and dumb; a prohibitory liquor law, and the establishment of a state land office.

*Approach of Hard Times*—Clayton county began the year 1856 with a glad heart and strong courage. Happily the dark clouds of the future were concealed from them. Crops had been bountiful, all of their little towns had been prospering, the tide of immigration had not been checked, new men and new money were constantly coming, prices were fair and the currency was still reliable and at par. Among the items of the year-end may be noted the following: "McGregor is improving fast. A large steam sawmill is being erected by Jones, Bass & Freck. Mr. McGregor is putting up a large building intended for a warehouse. There are three public houses and three stores doing a general merchandising business; a wholesale and retail grocery, owned by W. H. Baker, a bakery, a tin shop, two blacksmith shops and a carpenter shop. McGregor's ferry connections make it a desirable landing for emigrants from the East, and it has a better natural road through the country than any of our river towns. Business is brisk at Elkader, E. Boardman, Jr., has leased the Elkader house; Mr. Clark is now merchandising in the building formerly occupied by Freeman & Lawrence; Mr. Espy is in the new brick store at the end of the bridge, and R. Freeman is doing a land agency business; Emerson & Border have the contract for carrying mail three times a week from Dubuque to Garnaville and hope to establish a daily route to Decorah. There is a semi-weekly mail to Clayton, the citizens of Clayton paying for one trip and the government for the other; a contract for a bridge over Little Turkey at Millville has been let, owing to the enterprise of B. White; Monona is to have a steam sawmill. Rogers & Stoddard of Clayton have commenced work on a large steam flour mill. Large steam saw and flouring mills are to be erected at Guttenberg. The new warehouse of Beckman & Co. is completed. Eighteen bushels of wheat to the acre was reported to be the average yield, and George Pearson had a yield of 120 bushels on four acres. The population of the county, according to the census of 1854, was 9,337 and the number of voters 1,689."

The first note of the approaching hard times is found in an editorial in the Herald of Jan. 26, 1855, in which it states that "from one end of the East to the other the cry is of distress and hard times. That we feel somewhat the pressure of the times we do not deny." Among the other items of this issue are the following: That Dr. F. Andros is a member of the Minnesota legislature; that S. Murdock will give a lecture in the courthouse, subject, "The Earth;" that the agricultural society will meet and that a daily stage line is proposed

between Clayton and West Union via Elkader. This paper also mentions the wonderful discovery that paper can be made of wood pulp. The county seat question was again agitated and L. Bigelow, as representative, reports that 272 citizens have asked that the county seat be fixed by the legislature, that 448 citizens asked that commissioners be appointed to relocate and in case the county seat is changed that an election is first held, while 407 other citizens remonstrate against the appointment of commissioners and ask that an election be held. Under the circumstances Mr. Bigelow throws up his hands and decides to do nothing. Timothy Davis presided at a meeting at Elkport at which it was resolved to raise the funds and to build a bridge across the Volga. Samuel Murdock at this time announced his candidacy for district judge.

Despite the hard times which were creeping over the nation from east to west, Clayton county, with its ever increasing tide of immigration, continued to prosper during the year 1855; all of the towns increased in population, and especially was this true of the river towns, which grew rapidly in importance. Clayton and McGregor received the greatest benefit from the transient immigrant trade and attracted much eastern capital. During this year Eliphalet Price succeeded E. H. Williams as county judge; the other county officers were Benjamin F. Fox, recorder and treasurer; Robert R. Reed, clerk; H. S. Granger, school fund commissioner; Nicholas Kriebs, coroner; Murray E. Smith, surveyor; James Davis, sheriff; O. F. Stevens, attorney. Politically the lines between the Democrats and the new party which was rapidly forming were more sharply drawn, the new party being in the ascendancy in the county. Eliphalet Price was president of the agricultural society for 1855, and a second fair was held which was more successful than the first. The amount given in premiums at the first fair was \$29; for the second fair the premiums amounted to \$229.75.

*Elkader Wins County Seat*—Elkader had been growing both in population and ambition, and its friends circulated a petition asking for the removal of the county seat to Elkader. This petition was signed by 950 voters. The Elkaderites also founded a newspaper, called the Tribune, to aid in the fight for the county seat and the columns of the newspapers at Garnavillo and Elkader were filled with bitter editorials and contributed articles. The Tribune was branded as the "organ" of the "Company" and said to have been established simply to boom Elkader. The Elkader advocates issued a challenge for joint debates, and this challenge was accepted by Reuben Noble, who agreed to meet them at McGregor, Monona, Clayton and Guttenburg. There is no record that these meetings were held, and the election took place in April and resulted in favor of Elkader by the following vote: Elkader 1,135, Garnavillo 964. Guttenburg people voted almost solidly for Garnavillo, thus paving the way for a petition, notice of which was published on May 2, asking for another election, as between Elkader and Guttenburg. Judge Price immediately issued the order for the removal of the county seat and stated that he had procured suitable rooms for the district court and that the county court would close at Garnavillo on Thursday, May 1, 1856,

and open at Elkader on the following Monday. At the April election the vote was also taken on the "hog law," which was defeated by a vote of 616 for restraint and 799 against. A school fund commissioner was also elected, there being three candidates, and the vote standing: I. Matthews 980, J. Nicklaus 522, J. O. Crosby 432. Mr. Matthews removed the office to Giard.

*Read and Morasser Townships*—On March 14, 1856, Judge Price gave notice of the establishment of two new townships; the first, Read, named after Robert R. Read, with the election to be held at the house of John Barrett; the second, Morasser, which was to embrace all of township 94, range 6. This name was not satisfactory to the people, as is shown by the fact in the published election table for the April election, the description is used and not the name. It is related that J. C. Rounds was bitterly opposed to the name Morasser, and that he made an agreement with Judge Price for the changing of the name to Marion, the consideration being that the vote of the precinct be delivered to Guttenburg in the next county seat contest. It is stated, further, that Judge Price carried out his part of the agreement, but that at the election, much to his chagrin, the new township voted solidly for Elkader. At the first election in this new township 29 votes were cast, and the election was held at the home of Ole Olson. Read township cast eighty votes.

*Events of 1856*—The following brief mentions, taken from the files of newspapers, give a good idea of the activities and growth of the county along many lines. The prominence of the county is shown by the fact that Reuben Noble was nominated as an elector at large, thus heading the first Republican state ticket ever put into the field, although, on account of private business, he declined to be a candidate. Squire Peet tells of the establishment of Henry (Honey) Creek postoffice five miles southeast of Littleport with Mr. Marshall as postmaster. Yankee Settlement Center is the name of a new town platted by Joseph Gibson; it is reported as containing a tavern, blacksmith shop, two stores, steam sawmill, two doctors, two lawyers and a Congregational church, while the Methodists are building a church and from eight to ten other buildings are being erected. Mr. Gibson did everything possible to promote this settlement, giving one lot free to mechanics and selling them a second lot at from five to ten dollars. An addition to the town of Hardin was also platted and lots offered for sale. National had a new steam mill, owned by W. H. Harrah. A new postoffice was opened at Geisselman's ferry, on the Colesburg and Garnavillo mail route. From Strawberry Point comes a report of a large building erected by Stearns Bros.; that a church and schoolhouse are being built; that Tremain and Blake occupy the former Stearns' store, and a Mr. Pearse has established a daguerrean parlor. In May, Robert R. Read resigned the office of clerk and Judge Price appointed the young man, Thomas Updegraff, as his successor. This was the first official position held by Mr. Updegraff, who for many years was prominent in the county and later, as a member of Congress, a powerful factor in state and nation. His biography will be found in another chapter.

Garnavillo was hard hit by the removal of the county seat. Some



wags unfeelingly rubbed in the defeat by removing the stone curb of the town well to Elkader. The Herald sees no fun in this and waxes indignant over the outrage. But the Herald itself was obliged to yield to circumstances, and on May 29, 1856, it makes its first appearance at Guttenburg in the hope that it will soon be the county seat. A. W. Drips continues as editor, and the Herald office is located in the Odd Fellows building. A new town, which should not be omitted from the list of the many established in the county, was that of Windsor, in Farmersburg township. This was laid out by J. C. Russell, and the surveying was done by Truman Beckwith. This is the present town of Farmersburg.

*Field of Business*—Perhaps no better review of business conditions in the county can be gained than by glancing through the advertising columns of the county newspaper. Thenasnow enterprising merchants and business men believed in publicity, and the advertisements form a fairly complete directory of the best business houses. The scarcity of newspapers is evidenced by the fact that advertisements were inserted from many towns. In March, 1856, while still at Garnavillo, and before the removal of the county seat, the Herald contains the following business cards: At Garnavillo, the Garnavillo hotel, B. F. Forbes, proprietor; Jacob Nicklaus, notary; Noble & Granger, E. H. Williams, Schuyler R. Peet, J. O. Crosby and Elijah Odell, attorneys; John Linton, physician; R. C. Drips, justice; O. McCraney, real estate; Beach & Brown, shoemakers; Daniel C. Forbes, tailor; E. P. Atkins, grocer. There are ten business cards from Dubuque, including hotels and merchants. West Union and St. Louis are represented, as is also Galena. Henry Gifford advertises grain cradles for sale at Boardman's grove, three miles east of Elkader. Lots are offered for sale in Schroeder's addition to Garnavillo by John Barnes and O. McCraney; Keumpel and Stearns, of Clayton, announce their cabinet, chair and bedstead factory; Buell Knapp has the "Premium" harness shop, over Carter's store at Elkader; Barnes and Crawford, of Volney, announce the dissolution of the firm; Levi Angier asks all to settle up; James I. Gilbert advertises a public sale of stock; Leonard B. Hodges offers for sale a two-story brick house in Hardin, also one hundred building lots in that town, which he advertises in most extravagant terms. There are many estray notices, one of which, concerning a "Verirrte Kuh," is printed in German, using English type. The fourth page of the paper is entirely devoted to advertisements. Randall & Jones' corn-planting machines are boosted. The North West Express Co., operating teams from St. Paul to Dubuque, via Decorah and Garnavillo, is an advertiser. Among the Clayton advertisers are J. H. & William Grannis, general merchants; the Clayton foundry, formerly of Elkader, run by Keen Bros.; J. A. Brown, furniture; Hoyt & Campbell, wagon makers; Clark & Rogers, J. G. Jerome and Frank Smith & Co., general merchants. R. C. MacKinney & Co. have a furniture store at McGregor. The Guttenberg advertisers are the City hotel, formerly Gilmore house, by J. B. Lahr; G. F. Weist, hardware; Fleck & Bro., general merchandise, and G. Poetz, cabinet maker. Alex. McGregor inserts a half-column concerning the advantages of his ferry, and directly attacking statements made by Frank Smith & Co., of Clayton.

To this the Clayton firm replies in a still longer advertisement accusing McGregor of misrepresentation and setting forth the advantages of Clayton as a ferry point. The rivalry between these two towns for the immigrant trade is well illustrated by these counter statements. Among the other stores advertised are those of J. S. Belknap, at Lodomillo, and of A. C. Woodward at Volga City. Among the oddities is the advertisement of "French shirt bosoms, excelling all others in ease of ironing and durability. For sale by M. L. Wood."

*Dubuque View of Clayton*—In the spring of 1856 Clayton county was visited by the editors of the Republican and of the Staats Zeitung of Dubuque. The description of the county and of its towns is very flattering, and a portion of it reads as follows: "The traveler who first lands in Clayton county at Guttenberg, and seeks to penetrate into its interior from that point, at first encounters nature in its rough and primitive majesty. He ascends a gigantic bluff, step by step, until he attains a mountain elevation. Then at his feet he beholds the Mississippi, dotted with lovely islands and sparkling in the sun, rolling on its waste of waters to the sea. Before him spreads the forest, as it was a hundred years ago, beautiful in its grandeur. He journeys through it, and soon smiling farms greet him from the hilltops, and the country grows less rough. Five miles from Guttenberg he enters upon the most beautiful rolling prairie we have ever seen, which extends far on either hand, to within three miles of Elkader. This prairie is high and is broken into every imaginable variety of hill and dale. It is covered with farms, most of them in the very highest state of cultivation. The other portions of the county are almost equally as beautiful, and there is scarcely a foot of it but what is susceptible of perfect cultivation. The Turkey river, a most beautiful stream, furnishing abundant water power, runs through the county diagonally, from its northwest to its southeast corner, and upon its banks and those of its tributaries, as well as along the Mississippi, which forms the eastern boundary of the county, there is an inexhaustible supply of timber."

"*Guttenberg*—This is the largest town in the county, and contains a population of over 1,000. It was incorporated as a city some three years ago, and is governed by a mayor and five trustees elected annually. The inhabitants of Guttenberg are almost exclusively German, there being but four or five American families in the place. It is a significant fact that one of these few Americans was chosen mayor. The German mind is not absorbed by a lust for office. The site of Guttenberg is very handsome, strongly resembling that of Dubuque. Its houses are large, well built, and for the most part constructed of stone, of which there is any quantity close at hand. There is a better steam mill there than there is in Dubuque, and some of its buildings would do honor to Main street. Business is flourishing—a number of new houses are going up, and everyone appears to be making money. Socially the people of Guttenberg are above all praise. We spent about thirty hours there, and never were there thirty hours more delightfully engaged. Of a very high order of intelligence and gifted with an unusual knowledge of the world, their conversation is as charming as their hospitality is grateful. To our friends, Messrs. Nicklaus, Prignitz, Uhl, and many others, we owe most particular obli-

gation. In Guttenberg there stands a three-story house constructed of stone in a very elegant, tasteful and substantial manner, which was built almost entirely by a man and his wife, who now own it. They were three years in accomplishing the job, and now receive a handsome income from its rent. This extraordinary couple, of course, are German. All over the county we heard the warmest praise of the German settlers. The prominent American citizens spoke of them as ornaments in every way to the county, and extolled, glowingly, their intelligence, their industry, their patriotism, and the great increase of wealth which they produced.

*"Garnavillo*—Ten miles northwest from Guttenberg, and in the heart of a prairie as beautiful as a garden, lies Garnavillo, a place of some five or six hundred people, and until lately the county seat. It wears an air of health, cleanliness and contentment that is very charming, and seems to be in no way dispirited by the loss of the seat of government. It has a number of good stores, shops and dwellings, and is honored by being the residence of the Hon. Reuben Noble and E. H. Williams, two men of whom any state would be proud.

*"Elkader*—Situated on both sides of the Turkey river, ten miles west of Garnavillo, and upon a bench of land designed by nature for a town, Elkader has peculiar and natural advantages which the enterprise and sagacity of her citizens have not failed to improve. She is a young place, and has, as yet, scarcely begun to show what she can yet be made. Her inhabitants number some half a thousand, but we mistake greatly if they are not doubled e'er another year. There is a gigantic flouring mill here, owned by Timothy Davis, Esq., and which is a monument to the skill and wealth of its proprietor. There are some half-dozen excellent stores, a hotel, shops, school houses, etc. The site of Elkader is very beautiful, and when the town shall have spread over the high tableland which is designed to form the principal portion of the place, it will be hard to find a handsomer place in Iowa. The district court, His Honor Judge Murdock presiding, was in session when we entered Elkader, and the town was thronged to overflowing by the lawyers and the "pares curiam" from far and near. Had it not been for the very acceptable hospitality and kindness of our friends there, we should have fared but badly, as every nook and corner of the hotel swarmed with human beings. To the kindness of Mr. Carter, Judge Williams and Mr. Havens we are deeply indebted for hospitality graciously and freely offered.

*"Clayton Centre*—Five miles east of Elkader is a new town just out of the woods, and yet in its first days of infancy, which may make something yet. It is settled by a German colony, the most of whom have already built for themselves small stone houses. As this town is very near the center of the county, no doubt anticipations are entertained by some of its citizens of one day enjoying the honor of the location of the county seat.

*"Communia*—Some six or seven miles south of Elkader is the site of what remains of the somewhat famous "Communia Colony," an association of Germans formed years since upon the principle of living in common. They have a beautiful place, and it is under the highest state of cultivation. The experiment of socialism, however,



turned out to be a failure, and great have been the troubles of the colony. Many of its members have left it, and those who remain are harassed by an infinitude of lawsuits about the property, which is now of great value.

*"Public Men*—The last legislature of this state was presided over in each of its branches by a gentleman from Clayton county. Maturin L. Fisher was the president of the senate, Reuben Noble was speaker of the house. This extraordinary tribute to the pre-eminence of the public men of Clayton was not undeserved. She has within her boundaries probably as much real talent as any other county of the state. The two gentlemen we have named, Timothy Davis, Judge Williams, Judge Murdock, Dr. Hoffbauer, and many others, are statesmen and jurists fitted for any post of honor and respectability. Well may the citizen of Clayton bless the fortune that led him to cast his lot on her fair bosom."

#### MC GREGOR AND "THE TIMES"

October 10, 1856, is the date of the first issue of "The North Iowa Times," published at McGregor, with the proud motto, "We march with the flag, and keep step to the music of the Union." With this paper came a new factor into Clayton county in the person of Col. A. P. Richardson, who was the editor of the Times, F. W. Merrell being the publisher. Col. Richardson was a man of great ability and a terse, forceful and fluent writer. He came to Iowa as a man in the prime of life, already well versed in political affairs and having attained to high honors in the state of Indiana. He was born in Philadelphia, May 28, 1818. His youth was spent in southern Ohio and his young manhood in northern Indiana. In this state he was prominent in Democratic political circles, serving one term in the Indiana state senate and having been appointed as a colonel of the state militia, from which appointment he gained the title by which he was familiarly known.

He first came to Iowa as a guest of his wife's relatives, who lived at Monona, and he was so pleased with the country that he came to McGregor and established the Times. His reputation as an editorial writer was not confined to this section, nor to Iowa; he was known, and his opinions were respected, throughout all the northwestern states. While a partisan, Col. Richardson was always a patriot. When the test came in 1861, no man was stronger in his utterances for the defense of the Union. He was the editor of the Times almost continuously for a period of fourteen years, dying at McGregor, December 5, 1870. Col. Richardson was on the ground several weeks before the first issue of his paper appeared. A prospectus was issued and many subscribers secured in advance for this paper, which was to be the organ not only of McGregor, but of the Democrats of the county.

In the opening number the advantages and prospects of McGregor are dealt with at length, and the paper announces its advocacy of the election of Buchanan and Breckenridge. The advertising columns are almost evenly divided between McGregor and Monona. Noticeable among the McGregor advertisements is that of Lee & Kinnaird, successors to Lee & Nichols, bankers and land agents, at McGregor. This

is the first advertisement of a bank in Clayton county, and, while doubtless others had done a banking business, it was the first professed institution of that kind in the county.

The people of McGregor were intensely interested in railroad development, believing, mistakenly, that the extension of lines west of the river would add to its importance. In this relation the Times says, "the completion of the railroad to Prairie du Chien will give us all the eastern facilities possessed by any town in the state. The neigh of the iron horse cannot yet be heard, but we see the influence of his approach in the increased activities in every man among us." George E. Woodward, chief engineer of the McGregor, St. Peters & Missouri River Railroad, writes, for the Times, that the first preliminary survey is now completed to Clear Lake, in Cerro Gordo county, a distance of 140 miles from McGregor. He also adds that "the carrying out of this project proclaims the most brilliant future for McGregor."

For five days, October 12-16, inclusive, the river boats touching at McGregor numbered thirteen, as follows: The Fanny Harris, Galena, War Eagle, Greek Slave, Badger State, Arcola, Ocean Wave, Jacob Traber, Fall City, Lady Franklin, Kate Cassel, City Belle, and Tishomingo. These boats landed 3,621 packages of merchandise, weighing 328,477 pounds.

F. W. G. Merrell remained with the Times but two weeks, the paper passing entirely into the control of Mr. Richardson, who became more and more outspoken in his political attitude. The Times accused Seward, Sumner and other abolitionists of attempting to disrupt the Union, and supported the Fugitive Slave Law, saying, "after the north has found it convenient and profitable to sell their negroes to the south and thus relieve themselves of the reproach and the damage which slavery has caused us, is it right, is it manly, is it patriotic, is it in accordance with the Constitution to write upon the flag, pretending to be national, 'that fugitives from service or labor shall not be surrendered on claim'?"

An interesting paragraph found in the Times is the following: "Coulee de Sioux is the old French name for the ravine or road that now leads westward from McGregor. It was once a celebrated Indian trail, and from its gradual rise, and the consequent facilities of surmounting the bluffs of the Mississippi on a westward march, it was established by the government as the best means of access from the east bank of the river to their more western fortifications. A warehouse is still standing here, built by the United States for the deposit of military stores. Four hundred teams per day now use this road." One of the peculiar institutions of that day, advertised in the Times, is the "Floating Palace, Steamship James." This was a store, on a river boat, which traveled from town to town, and which was then tied up, ready for business, at McGregor.

*County Politics*—The Times began publication too late to take part in the campaign in 1856 to any great extent. In July the democrats nominated for senator Andrew S. Cooley, of Garnavillo; for representatives, James Tappan, of Girard, and John M. Ballou, of Clayton, and for clerk, Robt. C. Drips, of Garnavillo. The republicans held a convention at Elkader, nominating H. B. Carter, of Elkader, for sen-

ator; Lafayette Bigelow, of Mendon, and Francis Rodman, of Jefferson, for representatives; Thomas Updegraff for clerk, and H. S. Granger for attorney. The result of the election was a complete victory for the republicans, the vote being, for congress, Davis (Rep.) 1,081, Leffler (Dem.) 37; for senator, Carter (Rep.) 1,043, Cooley (Dem.) 421; for representative, Bigelow (Rep.) 1,016, Rodman (Rep.) 982, Ballou (Dem.) 458, Tappen (Dem.) 499; for clerk, Updegraff 1,113, Drips 384. Granger, for attorney, had no opposition, and the majority for a constitutional convention was 295.

Michael Uriell was president and F. Belfoy, the editor of the *Elkader Tribune*, was secretary, of the agricultural society, and the fair for 1856 was held at Guttenburg in September. Owing doubtless to the exigencies of the times, the *Herald* had no issue between September 25 and October 30, 1856, and no details of the fair are given, except the premium list. At this time the population of Clayton county is given as follows: Boardman, 778; Buena Vista, 193; Cox Creek, 535; Clayton, 622; Cass, 629; Elk, 546; Farmersburg, 840; Garnavillo, 1,094; Grand Meadow, 417; Giard, 600; Highland, 460; Jefferson, 2,073; Lodomillo, 734; Mendon, 718; Monona, 811; Mallory, 736; Millville, 662; Morasser, 392; Read, 637; Sperry, 732; Volga, 532; Wagner, 520. Total, 15,361. Under the provisions of a prior election bridge projects were entitled to receive funds from the swamp land fund, if completed by April 8, 1857. There was a race between three bridges to be completed in time. The bridge over the Turkey river at Elkport was completed in November, 1856, and the bridges at Millville and Peck's Ferry were rushed through under high pressure. The bridge at Elkport broke down as soon as completed, much to the disappointment of Guttenberg merchants, but it was immediately rebuilt.

State elections were held in August and the presidential elections in November. Fremont carried Clayton county by a large majority, the vote being: Fremont, 1,520; Buchanan, 748; Fillmore, 67. Mendon, Mallory and Read were the only townships giving a democratic majority. The *North Iowa Times* rejoices over the national victory for Buchanan, and declares "the Union is safe."

*First Steam Ferry*—November 13, 1856, the McGregor, the first steam ferry boat between McGregor and Prairie du Chien, tied up at the foot of the main street of the proud little city. This boat was built at Cincinnati at a cost of \$12,000, and was of three hundred tons burden. The *Times* boasts that "it will compare favorably with the Brooklyn or Fulton line, and is the best ferry that has ever passed Dubuque." A grand excursion was given by the boat owners to prominent citizens of the twin cities, to Clayton, where a dance was held, and, on their return journey, resolutions were passed in honor of the enterprising proprietors.

The *Times* of December 5 chronicles the killing of a bear by Mr. Sturn within two miles of McGregor, and states that four bears had been killed a few miles up the river.

As a reward for his stalwart democracy A. P. Richardson was made postmaster of McGregor in 1857, succeeding V. R. Miller.

*Early History of McGregor*—In celebration of the new year the *Times* devoted a page to the history of McGregor and a statement of



its then condition, from which the following extracts are taken: "There is some difficulty in obtaining a correct history of McGregor from the earliest settlement, prior to the time the U. S. government had erected a garrison fort, at a point on the east bank of the Mississippi, nearly opposite McGregor. Prior to the year 1840 a warehouse had been built near the landing at McGregor by the general government, to store provisions and other necessities for the soldiers. This warehouse still remains as a monument of the early days of McGregor. About the same time the government made a road from this place to Fort Atkinson, and built a fort at the latter place. The selection of this road by competent engineers **conclusively** proves the route from this place as the most feasible to the interior country west of it. The state road from this place is laid nearly on the same route. The country west was then inhabited almost exclusively by Indians; but few white men having, prior to that time, penetrated this region of country; nature was then presented in her merriest mood, and in all her grandeur. Alexander McGregor was one among the earliest settlers at the place now known as McGregor. Some time in the year 1840 or 1841 a horse ferry boat was procured to run from this place to a point on the east bank of the Mississippi, at Fort Crawford, which has been continued up to this time; prior to which time, canoes and skiffs had been used as the only means of crossing the river. In 1845 James McGregor obtained a conveyance for the tract of land on which McGregor now stands. About this time Alexander McGregor built a house near the landing at the place near where the government warehouse still stands. There were but few other improvements worthy of note.

The bluffs then presented a rugged range of hills, which might almost be classed under the name of mountains, and few that then beheld the site of McGregor dreamed that there could ever be even a respectable town, and none thought of there ever being a city.

The population of McGregor has now fully reached 662. Had the census been taken two months since, the population would have reached eight hundred and upward. The following is the population at this time: Married persons; males, 143; females, 143. Number of children under 10 years, 153. Number of children over 10 years and under 21, 271. The number of unmarried male persons is 151. The number of females unmarried falls below this number, being, as near as ascertained, 24; and their charms are such as to give them promise of a short life of single blessedness.

The number of steamboat arrivals bound up, and discharging freight at McGregor, are as follows: April, 17; May, 116; June, 105; July, 89; August, 65; September, 62; October, 78; November, 83; December, 5. The amount of tonnage from October 1 to December 5, as reported in the North Iowa Times weekly, was 3,002,451 pounds, making an average for the season of 1856 of 1,500,000 pounds per month. The following statement shows the division of trade here, as nearly as can be ascertained: There are eight wholesale and retail dry goods and grocery stores, three wholesale and retail stove and tinware stores, six eating and oyster saloons, one meat market, one drug store, one bakery, one wholesale and retail hardware store, seven

taverns, one saddle and harness shop, two sawmills, one window blind, sash and door factory, three blacksmith shops, one cabinet shop, one dealer in sash, door and blinds, one wholesale dealer in furniture, one printing office, five contracting plasterers, two shoe shops, one jeweler and watchmaker, five carpenter shops, one livery stable, one bank, one railroad office, four physicians and surgeons."

*Judge Eliphalet Price*—In January, 1857, Judge Price made an official statement as to the bridge fund of the county. There was realized from the bridge tax, \$2,027, and this was used to assist in building twenty-six bridges, \$300 going to each of three bridges across the Volga. The judge estimates the cost of these bridges at \$5,500, the larger part of which was donated. He states that bridges are under construction across the Turkey river at Millville to cost \$4,000 and at Elkport to cost \$3,400. These bridges to receive \$1,000 each from the swamp land fund.

The annual county seat fight began good and early in 1857, Judge Price publishing a notice that an election would be held between Guttenburg and Elkader the first Monday in April. Perhaps it was to prepare for this that Clerk Updegraff announces that a special term of court will be held at Elkader on March 30, for the exclusive purpose of naturalizing foreigners. Maturin L. Fisher, who had gained prominence as president of the senate, was nominated by the democratic party as a candidate for state superintendent of public instruction. There had just been a scandal in this office, a former superintendent loaning himself a large sum from the school fund on his own note, which proved to be valueless. The knowledge that Mr. Fisher was a man of high integrity aided largely in his election, although the politics of the state were republican at the time. Mr. Fisher was elected, and proved one of the most efficient men who ever held that office, and it fell to him to select the nucleus for the library of the state university, and he traveled throughout the east on this mission. It was in 1857, also, that a postoffice was established at Read, with J. Louis Hagensick as postmaster. It was also in this year that the first map of Clayton county was published by J. O. Crosby, of Garnavillo.

*Railroad Projects*—Guttenberg was greatly interested in a railroad project at this time, and a meeting was held to advance the Turkey River Valley Railroad, it being proposed to connect by ferry with a road on the east bank of the Mississippi, north from Galena. The legislature had enacted a law empowering Clayton county to issue bonds in favor of the Dubuque & Turkey River Valley Railroad and the McGregor, St. Peter & Missouri River Railroad, upon a vote of the people. Judge Price issued a proclamation on this issue, and also a proclamation providing for a vote as to whether the swamp land fund should be used to aid bridges across the Turkey river, the erection of which had been delayed by inclement weather. A railroad meeting was held at Volga, at which M. M. Johnson, Alvah Bevens and W. H. Gould were appointed as a committee, which reported in favor of a route from Dyersville via the Yankee Settlement, Volga, Lima City and West Union. The railroad meeting at Guttenberg was largely attended. S. L. Peck was chairman and Francis Rodman secretary, and the meeting was called to order by Judge Price. They resolved in



favor of a grant and that the Mississippi terminus of the proposed Turkey Valley Railroad should be retained in Clayton county. C. F. Remick, E. H. Williams, Judge Price, Reuben Noble and A. E. Wanzer were among the speakers. At the same time articles of incorporation for the Dubuque & Turkey Valley Railroad Co. were published, signed by Willis Drummond, M. M. Johnson and Jacob Nicklaus.

*Agricultural Society*—Michael Uriell, as president of the Agricultural Society, presided at the meeting which was held in Elkader February 21. At this meeting Dr. E. Trescott was elected president and William Kees secretary. It was resolved that the executive committee should select a permanent location. There was a hot contest for this location; Clayton, Elkader, Read Township and Farmersburg entering the lists with various propositions. Farmersburg was first decided upon, but this was reconsidered, and Clayton Center won. This created much feeling in Farmersburg against Elkader, which was held responsible.

*Guttenberg the County Seat*—So busy were the people with railroad projects that it was not until late in March that the county seat fight warmed up. Thompson and Davis were accused of having withdrawn the \$5,000 which they offered to donate to the county if the county seat was located at Elkader in 1856. This was indignantly denied by the Elkader Tribune in an article headed, "A Lie Nailed to the Counter." The fact that this offer had been made and that no step had been taken to build a courthouse, however, operated against Elkader. A paragraph from one of the "county seat" editorials in the Guttenberg paper illustrates some of the arguments used in this fight: "LOOK OUT for some magnificent offer on the part of Elkader about next Monday morning. In what shape it will make its appearance is not yet announced. Whether it will be another grand scheme like a bond or an engagement by Hon. Mr. Davis to make a slack water navigation the whole length of Turkey River, or a proposition to build a magnificent courthouse and present it to the people of the county, or some other benevolent operation, we do not pretend to decide. Maybe Congress can be induced, through the influence of Mr. Davis, to make an appropriation to build a marine hospital at that point in the basement of which the county can be furnished with offices free of charge. Whatever shape it may come in, it will doubtless be fulfilled in the same manner the celebrated bond of last year was; that is to say, over the left." At the city election in Guttenberg less than 200 votes were cast, but for the county seat the vote of Jefferson township was 565 for Guttenberg, Elkader none. At the same time the vote of all other precincts was extremely heavy. Guttenberg won by a vote of 1,477 to 1,456, and Timothy Davis and others protested against John M. Kriebs being allowed to assist in the canvass of votes, charging that more than 100 illegal votes had been cast in Guttenberg, and that Kriebs "must have been knowing to, if not active in procuring the same to be done." At the same election the vote for railroad aid carried by 1,651 to 969, and for bridge appropriations by 1,685 to 649. The democrats carried the county, Maturin L. Fisher receiving a large complimentary vote, the result being Fisher, 1,511; Bugbee (Rep.), 1,102. John W. Potts was elected county assessor.



The protest on the part of Elkader came to nothing, and Guttenburg held a grand celebration when the county property was transferred to that city. The following is the account of the gala day: "The county property was brought to Guttenburg last Thursday, and the appearance of the big safe caused quite a sensation among our citizens, who gave vent to their enthusiasm by cheering, firing guns and rejoicing generally. All seemed to feel that it was a proud day for Guttenburg; but none seemed to enter into the real enjoyment of the victory more than Farmer William Schoulte, of Garnavillo township, who was the standard-bearer on the occasion, and whose countenance expressed the delight he felt at being able to enter Guttenburg as the county seat of the county with the flag of his country supported by his sturdy arm, and waving in glorious folds over his noble head. In the afternoon the ladies presented Judge Price with a most beautiful bookcase as a token of their appreciation of his efforts in the campaign. In the evening a banquet was given at which toasts were responded to by Judge Price, Reuben Noble, Mayor Wiest, Thomas Updegraff, J. O. Crosby, E. Odell, J. P. Kriebs and William Schoulte. The county officers were quartered in the academy building, which was leased for three years for \$100 per annum." Judge Price announced that Clayton county would take \$200,000 of bonds in the McGregor, St. Peters, Missouri Railway, and \$200,000 in the Dubuque & Turkey Valley Railway, and Sheriff Davis announced, on behalf of District Judge Murdock, that court would be holden at Guttenburg on May 18.

*Hard Times*—As early as January, 1857, the hard times began to settle down upon Clayton county. From the reports of the varied activities of the county it has been seen, however, that this new territory was affected less than almost any other portion of the United States. Money was not a necessity for the man who was not in debt. The soil provided a good living, and the surplus products of the farm could be exchanged for the few simple manufactured articles which the settler was obliged to have. But woe betide the man who was in debt. Interest rates were high. Twelve percent was about the lowest rate at which a farm loan could be obtained. The money price of produce was low. Added to this was the wildcat currency. The National bank had long since been abandoned, and, under lax state laws banks, almost without assets, had been allowed to issue currency. This currency floated at par, as a rule, when first issued, and the plentitude of money had inflated prices and encouraged speculation. The reaction came when these banks failed to redeem their currency and it dawned upon the people that the money which they had in their pocket was worth no more, or no less, than the worth of the individual bank by which it was issued. This led to suspicion, which was nearly always well founded, until things came to such a pass that no man, not even the best informed bankers, could be certain from day to day as to what these bank notes were worth. Just as the more modern "bucket shop" operator profited in grain deals by advance information, so financiers were able to profit by advance information as to the value of this state bank currency, and in every case it was the average man, the farmer, the laborer, who suffered. In January, 1857, the pinch was felt in Clayton county, but not so severely but that Colonel Rich-

ardson could write of it in the following light-hearted way: "In the memory of the oldest inhabitant of this country times have not been so 'tight' as now. If we did not know by experience of rather a bitter character that times are in the habit of getting tight and recovering again we would conclude that commercial delirium tremens would supervene and upset the whole fabric of trade and dicker. Every man you see is demanding money of you, and the mails are now supposed to be carried only by Dun horses." Nevertheless the paper announces that from three to five hundred buildings will be erected in McGregor during the course of the year. On March 2, 1857, McGregor voted to incorporate, and on April 27 an election was held to vote on the charter proposed by a commission consisting of John T. Stoneman, J. H. Merrell and G. S. C. Scott. The charter carried, by a vote of 35 to 21, and Judge Price declared the town incorporated and appointed A. T. Jones, F. Durand and J. T. Stoneman as the first election judges.

*Railroad Reaches River*—"Be it remembered that on Wednesday, April 15, 1857, at 5 o'clock in the evening, the cars of the Milwaukee & Mississippi railroad anchored on the banks of the great river. The shriek of the Lake Michigan locomotive was echoed by the bluffs and responded to by a shrill whistle of welcome from a Mississippi steamer just coming into port. Hundreds of persons were in attendance to witness the arrival of the first passenger train, and when the smoke of the engine became visible in the distance there was such an expression of anxiety as we have seen when a new and great actor is expected on the stage. As the train came in view, and the flags with which it was decorated were seen waving in the breeze, a shout of welcome broke forth from the gazers that told how many hopes of friendly reunions were awakened in the contemplation of an easy and speedy return to their eastern homes. One large banner carried on its silken folds the busy emblem of 'Wisconsin, the Badger.'" This is the glad song of praise with which the Times announced the coming of the first railroad train within sight of McGregor. There was feasting and rejoicing, and the high officials of the railroad visited McGregor and proclaimed it the "Gateway of Trade—the Thermopylae of North Iowa Commerce." McGregor held its first city election on May 9, 1857, and the first officers were A. T. Jones, mayor; John T. Stoneman, recorder; John H. Kinniard, treasurer; J. L. Dearman, assessor; D. Allen, marshal. The first trustees were A. E. Wanzer, G. S. C. Scott, R. McMorrine, C. A. Southmayd and J. B. Bass. The Times celebrated by enlarging to an eight-column sheet and by publishing a lengthy writeup of all the business houses in the city.

*Clouded Titles*—One thing which seriously retarded the growth of McGregor was the fact that the land titles were in dispute, and no man could secure a clear title to his lot. This litigation in which the McGregors were involved, first as to the Giard grant, with the original owners, and later as brother against brother, dragged its weary course through the courts for many years. It was the hope of all McGregorites that this suit would be settled or compromised and in May, 1857, the Times mentions that "James McGregor, Esq.,



brother to Alexander, our townsman, and one of the parties to the suit involving the title to the townsite of McGregor, is now here. It is hoped by all that the matter at issue will be compromised by the brothers, and we are pleased to learn that there is strong ground to anticipate an amicable arrangement."

It was at this time, in 1857, that old Fort Crawford, across the river, but which played such an important part in the early history of this county, was sold by the government to the settlers. There was hardly an issue of the Times during this year which did not contain a notice of a railroad meeting, and this was the headquarters of the McGregor, St. Peter & Missouri railroad, of which John Thompson was president and Jedediah Brown was secretary. June 19, 1857, the new banking and real estate firm of H. S. Granger & Co. was announced, and the threshing machine is first advertised to the farmers of the county.

*Coming of Norwegians*—This was the time of the great Norwegian immigration, and the picture of their coming, as given by the Times, is worth preserving: "On Saturday last the Northern Belle delivered at McGregor nearly one hundred emigrants from Norway. There was about the same number on board, bound for ports farther up. They were composed of middle age and young men and women and children, very few of the company looked to be over 35 or 40 years of age. Boxes, wooden trunks and cases of all shapes and sizes, strongly banded with iron, painted and marked with hieroglyphics to us indecipherable, were carried from the boat to the levee until the wharf and road for several rods were completely blocked up. The appearance of some of the wooden trunks was very ancient, one of them we saw was marked 1707. There were others older in looks. The Norwegians are a most valuable accession to the state. They are frugal, industrious and honest; some of them are most talented business men, and scarcely one can be found that approaches, either from bad habits or imbecility, the condition of a pauper. They usually settle in neighborhoods, and a steady improvement of the country marks their footsteps. Iowa and Minnesota are receiving the best mental stamina of the eastern and middle states, as well as the most valuable physical and moral force of Europe. No better evidence of the value of Iowa lands can be shown than the direct influences they exert on the middle classes of distant Europe. A journey of 7,000 miles, or over one-quarter round the earth, is no light testimony in favor of the superiority of the Northwest."

*Politics in 1857*—The August election of 1857 resulted generally in a Republican victory, but it is also noteworthy that the proposition to strike the word "white" from the Constitution was defeated in this county by a vote of 239 for and 1,029 against. The vote of McGregor stood 1 for and 159 against. Judge Price, possibly owing to his activities for Guttenberg, was defeated for county judge by O. W. Crary. Other county officers elected were B. F. Fox, recorder; Alpheus Scott, attorney; James Davis, sheriff; M. E. Smith, surveyor; Nicholas Kriebs, coroner, and B. F. Schroeder, drainage commissioner. The attempt made by Farmersburg earlier in the year to take the county seat from Guttenberg died a-bornin', but immediately after the elec-



tion Elkader announced that it would make the fight in the succeeding April, and petitions were also circulated for Garnavillo, Clayton Center and Farmersburg. It was in 1857 that Benjamin F. Forbes, the prominent citizen of Garnavillo, who has been frequently mentioned in this history, died, and the Masonic lodge of Garnavillo passed resolutions in honor of his memory, signed by A. W. Drips, secretary pro tem. Work had already begun on the railroad to extend west from McGregor. By September, 1857, contractors were at work on seven sections of the road, and North McGregor, for the first time, becomes prominent.

For the fall campaign the Republicans met in county convention at McGregor and L. G. Collins and W. H. Stearns were nominated for representatives. The Democratic convention was held at National, and Charles Watkins of Farmersburg and Michael Uriell of Read were nominated for representatives. At this time Clayton county was entitled not only to two representatives of its own, but to a "floating" representative elected by Dubuque, Jones and Clayton counties. For this position the Democrats of the county placed in nomination Dr. F. Andros, who had returned from Minnesota, subject to the decision of the district convention to be held at Dyersville. Dr. Andros was not successful at the convention, the nominee being W. S. Johnson. In the meantime the Republicans nominated John T. Stoneman of McGregor. The October election in 1857 resulted in the election of all Republican nominees. The following list of Democratic committeemen gives an idea of the political affiliations of many of the prominent men of the county. The committee was: Jefferson, B. F. Fox; Millville, John Kinney; Mallory, John W. Potts; Elk, John Wolf; Volga, Isaac Otis; Lodomillo, S. R. Peet; Boardman, R. L. Freeman; Wagner, Warren Hunt; Marion (Morasser), B. D. Worthing; Read, J. L. Gilbert; Garnavillo, Dr. Linton; Clayton, N. Kriebs; Mendon, George L. Bass; Monona, Horace Emery; Farmersburg, T. G. Drips; Cass, J. H. Grannis; Grand Meadow, Alex Fay; Sperry, Dr. Woodward; Giard, J. Tapper. No committeemen were reported from Buena Vista, Cox Creek and Highland.

The fourth annual fair was held at Clayton Center, and of it the secretary, William M. Keys, says that the weather was so unpleasant that few were able to attend. The exhibit was small but of good quality and the stock exhibit was very superior.

*Hard Times Reach McGregor*—In October, 1857, the Times had the following to say concerning business conditions at McGregor: "Notwithstanding the uproar of bank, railroad and individual failures throughout the country, our little city keeps up an active business-like motion, and we happen to know that several of our largest dealers are selling a great many goods to Western Iowa and Minnesota merchants for PAY. The buyers who come here to replenish are dealing far enough west and northwest to feel the influence of the past season's emigration, and it matters little to them whether wheat is high or low in the eastern market. The newcomer has the GOLD, and he is compelled to spend it. Our streets are as full of people as ever, and though no grain is coming forward, we are having a good run of trade." Nevertheless, it is noticeable that the Times suspended publication

for one week in order to collect sufficient to continue business, and, but a few weeks later, ~~that~~ paper makes a lengthy editorial statement relative to the times. It complains bitterly of the pressure to collect debts which is forcing many into the hands of the sheriff and adds, "the grain, upon which we rely for ultimate payment, will bring scarcely any price, and, even then, the farmers are required to receive in payment for it the bills of banks which have set the first example of suspension. The patient is very sick and the remedy should be speedy. The severity of the money pressure is having some strange effects. Large numbers of persons anticipating destitution this winter on the seaboard are shipping back to Europe. Men who fear the winter are recruiting in the United States service as fast as their names can be written on the lists. All the discharged mechanics are going into the army. Telegraph stock is benefited, so great is the rush of bad news, that three times the number of wires would find employment. The boot and shoe trade is said to have suffered least. The lager beer saloons have suffered materially. Matrimony is said to have come to a dead standstill in eastern states."

Coupled with the political unrest resulting naturally from these severe hard times was the great moral question of slavery, and the great political question of the perpetuity of the Union. The flames of dissension, which had blazed up during the Kansas-Nebraska controversy, had not died down, and even in 1857 there were many signs of the perilous times to come. It was a noteworthy fact that the first mention of disunion found in the McGregor paper is a discussion concerning a convention, called to meet at Cleveland, Ohio, to take into consideration the propriety of the dissolution of the Union. This convention was called by abolitionists of the northern states, and would make it appear that secession ideas were not entirely of southern origin.

The Times, of December 2, notes that Mr. Reuben Noble of the law firm of Noble, Odell & Drummond has taken up his residence at McGregor, while Mr. Odell remains at Guttenberg; that Judge Williams and Mr. Peck have formed a lawpartnership at McGregor and that John Van Orman of Osage has moved to McGregor and hung out his shingle.

At the close of the year 1857 McGregor is able to report that "since October, 1856, the village has more than doubled its population, and it has trebled in the length of its main street. Back country residents who have not visited the river since spring express their surprise now when they find themselves in town nearly one mile and a half from the river wharf. Not only is the coulee filling up with dwellings and business houses, but all the valleys intersecting the main road, the sides of the hills, and the uplands three to four miles in length, are being dotted with tasty residences, mechanic shops, houses of entertainment and small shops or provision stores. Notwithstanding the closeness of times improvements at North McGregor continue. A steam sawmill is erected, a large storehouse is finished, John Thompson of Clermont has the timber on the ground for a warehouse just below the mouth of Giard Creek; Granger & Co. have sold a large number of lots which will be built on in the spring."

The McGregor, St. Peter & Missouri River railroad issued \$4,000 in notes at 10 percent interest, which were expected to pass as currency in McGregor.

At the close of 1857 market prices at McGregor were: Wheat, 40c to 45c; oats, 25c to 30c; barley, 50c; potatoes, 40c to 45c; corn, 30c; cattle, 3c; fat sheep, \$1.50 to \$2 a head; hogs, \$5 to \$6; butter, 20c; eggs, 20c, but these prices were payable in a depreciated currency, and the market quotation contained the ominous statement, "Shin plasters not received on deposit."

*Events of 1858*—In January, 1858, there was formed at Elkader a "Female Temperance Society," the forerunner of the W. C. T. U. of today. Miss Griswold, Miss Mathews, Mrs. Warrenner and Miss Durkee took part in this first meeting.

By February, 1858, the Clayton County Herald, at Guttenberg, had succumbed to the hardness of the times. The Tribune at Elkader had proved but a short-lived affair, and the Times of McGregor was left as the only paper in Clayton county.

In 1858 the census figures for 1856 had just been compiled, and the figures of the nativity of the county are of interest. Of the 15,187 inhabitants of Clayton county there were but five paupers. The nativity of the people was as follows: Iowa, 2,567; New York, 1,722; Ohio, 1,545; Pennsylvania, 1,328; Illinois, 635; Vermont, 561; Indiana, 344; Wisconsin, 278; Virginia, 219; Massachusetts, 188; Michigan, 165; Connecticut, 126; New Hampshire, 119; Kentucky, 117; Missouri, 102. None of the other states furnished as many as 100. Of the foreign born, 2,375 were from Germany, 756 from Ireland, 343 from Canada, 274 from Norway, 253 from England, 171 from Prussia, 155 from Hanover, 131 from Scotland, 120 from Switzerland, 82 from Bavaria, 41 from France and others scattering. Counting Prussia, Hanover and Bavaria as Germany, and the total of German-born citizens reached 2,783, or nearly 20 percent of the population. It has often been said that Maturin L. Fisher was the father of the common school system of Iowa and in many respects this is true. In 1858 he presented to the legislature an entire recodification of the school law, and it was upon this that our school system is founded. Not all the provisions urged by Mr. Maturin were adopted, but he proposed a thorough system, which included the rural schools, high schools, normals and the state university, and to this Clayton county man must be given the credit for much of the good work done by our schools.

About this time, in the spring of 1858, the papers began to fill with notices of sheriff sales, and in nearly every one of these is a tragedy, written with the heart's blood of some hard-working, disappointed pioneer and his brave and devoted wife and little family, to whom the long journey across the prairies, the breaking of old home ties, the hardships and the deprivations of log cabin days and the long hours of toil in field and wood, had ended only in failure, owing to conditions for which they were not to blame and over which they had no control. Some lost heart entirely, but it speaks volumes for their courage and manhood that the vast majority started anew, bare handed, and finally won their way to success.



*Third County Seat Fight*—In 1858 Elkader made another try for the county seat, and Judge Oliver Crary ordered a vote to be taken at the April election. As there were no newspapers either at Guttenberg or at Elkader, and as the McGregor paper maintained a neutral attitude, not much can be learned concerning the details of this campaign. The vote was Guttenberg 2,038, Elkader 1,706. At the same election Alonzo Brown was elected to the newly made office of superintendent of common schools. The fact that Guttenberg cast 1,036 of the votes in her favor at the election was the subject of much comment and of great dissatisfaction on the part of Elkader. The Times suggests that Garnovillo is the proper place for the county seat, and this suggestion was eagerly taken up by the people of that village, laying the foundation for the successful fight which was made the following year.

*Indians at McGregor*—In March, 1858, McGregor was visited by a party of Indian chiefs and warriors under the conduct of J. R. Brown. They were Sisigons and Mudewakanpons, and among them were Chiefs Little Crow, Black Dog, Red Legs and others with unpronounceable names. The fact that this delegation created much interest and excitement in McGregor shows that Indian visits were already becoming rare.

In April, 1858, Mr. Richardson sold a half interest in the Times to C. C. Fuller, who was with the paper for some time. McGregor was not a model town at this time, nor could it have been expected to be. There were hundreds of strange visitors, and but few of the old-timers had been there more than a few years; the river brought many roughs and desperadoes and, at North McGregor, there were large gangs of illiterate workmen. The most of these men of all classes were young and hardy, and each had his goodly measure of wild oats to sow. The streets of McGregor were lined with many drinking places and there were gambling houses and dissolute women. All this does not reflect upon the McGregor of today, nor upon the staid residents of the place at that time; it was simply an incident of the rough pioneer time and but duplicated the scenes which have occurred in every border city.

*River Pirates Captured*—In 1858, however, it was found that this was a rendezvous for a large, thoroughly organized band of robbers who operated from the head waters of the Mississippi clear to the gulf. There had been a number of thefts at McGregor and Prairie du Chien, but they were not traced to any organized gang until the thieves fell out among themselves and one of their number gave the startling information which opened the eyes of the authorities. S. L. Peck headed a posse which captured three who were camping on Big Island, opposite the mouth of Sny Magill creek. They learned that the leader of the gang was known as Dr. Bell, and that he had a boat, loaded with stolen goods, down the river. The authorities attempted to make the arrest and shots were exchanged in which Bell was wounded, but the officers were unable to capture him. Returning to McGregor a larger posse was gathered, the ferry boat, McGregor, secured, and a second attempt made to capture the pirate, but he had escaped. Two other boats loaded with plunder were found further

down the river, and not less than \$5,000 worth of property was discovered. A vigilance committee was formed, and at Prairie du Chien some of the pirates were roughly handled and made to confess something of the workings of the gang. It was found that there were scores of river pirates connected with this outfit; that they operated both on the Mississippi and on the Ohio; that they had agents at New Orleans, and that regular boats took the plunder to the Texas coast for disposal. In June, S. W. Carpenter of the Dubuque detective force effected the capture of Bell, who, under many aliases, was the captain of the pirate gang. The officer and his prisoner arrived at McGregor on the steamer Gray Eagle in the evening and, says the Times, "were escorted from the levee to the McGregor house by some hundreds of our citizens, who were looking anxiously for their arrival, as a dispatch had been received stating that Bell had been arrested and would be here that evening. The crowd was almost wild with excitement, and manifested their satisfaction at his arrest and appreciation of the services of Mr. Carpenter by giving that gentleman three as hearty cheers as ever were heard on the shores of the Mississippi." The pursuit of Bell was as exciting as any story ever told by Nick Carter. The officer traced him to many towns in Illinois, back to Iowa, at Davenport, thence across through Illinois to Chicago, being always just a little behind his man. A clue was followed to Glen Haven, Mich., and the arrest was made at Pier Cove, Mich., where he had found refuge with a gang of counterfeiters. Although there was much excitement, there was no thought of lynching at McGregor, unless an attempt at rescue was made and, on the following day, Deputy Sheriff Tuttle took the prisoner to the county jail at Garna-villo. Bell and other members of the gang were tried and the gang was broken up, but the light sentences given were very unsatisfactory to McGregor people.

Another sensation which stirred McGregor and the whole of Clayton county was the assault of Alexander McGregor upon James M. McKinley. McKinley was counsel for James McGregor in the celebrated suit against Alex McGregor, and during one of the many trials had made remarks derogatory to Alexander. McKinley went to McGregor on business and Alexander McGregor met him on the street and assaulted him. It is stated that McGregor threw him down and continued striking him until the blood streamed down McKinley's face. McGregor justified his actions on the ground that McKinley had grossly insulted him by his remarks at the trial.

*Political Unrest*—1858 was the year of the great Douglas-Lincoln debates, a political duel which stirred the whole nation and which changed the course of American history. Viewing Lincoln as we do today, as the incomparable orator, as well as the great statesman and martyr, it is hard to realize that Colonel Richardson could have said what he did in his issue of June 30, under the caption, "Abraham Lincoln." The Times said: "This gentleman (Lincoln) is settled upon by the Republicans of Illinois to succeed Mr. Douglas as Senator, in case the legislature to be elected in November shall contain an opposition majority. Mr. Lincoln, in a speech comparing his qualifications with those of his distinguished opponent, remarks that a living



dog is better than a dead lion, and the admirer of this self-named living dog regards the canine illustration as evincive of a wit that should scintillate only in that most learned and dignified body, the Senate of the United States. Mr. Lincoln has the reputation of being a wag, but we did not know before that, from the confessed nature of the man, the waggery appertained to that portion of his organism which a real dog possesses. We have heard this man speak and, without flattering some very ordinary aspirants to oratorical honors to whom we have listened, we think Mr. Lincoln exceeds in dullness almost any stumper we ever heard. Douglas and himself being pitted against each other, it is expected they will canvass the state in company, and if the 'living dog' is not cur-tailed close up before the so-called dead lion gets through with him we shall drop all pretensions to prophecy. Who that has a particle of state pride or love of country would see, unmoved, the master spirit of American politics, the exponent of correct domestic principle and the defender of national honor step out of his place in the Senate to admit a man whose tastes and sense combined could not prevent him from appropriating to himself the title of a 'living dog.' A title, by the way, that will stick to him as long as he wears hair. Illinois certainly can do better than to take such a man as this from his kennel." In justice to Mr. Richardson it must be said, at once, that within a few years he revised his opinion of Lincoln and was loyal to the Union. Douglas was, however, at this time his idol, as he was of thousands of other people.

*Trip Through County*—A side light upon county affairs is given by Mr. Richardson when he tells that on a recent trip through the county he found Elkader dull, with fishing in the Turkey river the chief occupation, that prairie chicken are plentiful and that hunters often kill 30, 50 and 60 in a day. Concerning the crop he says: "They are far below an average; many fields of wheat straw were harvested with fire, some were given to the hogs; the saved wheat will run from 3 to 12 bushels to the acre. Oats is about a half crop in appearance, but it is said the grain is unusually light, not more than 20 pounds to the measured bushel. Corn looks unusually well, except that it shows a tendency to stalk. Grass is about parallel in excellence. Potatoes are said to be rotting. An early frost will play havoc with the corn."

*Election of 1858*—The lines were drawn for the political battle of 1858 along still sharper lines than ever before. The Dred Scott decision, the Douglas-Lincoln debates, the growing feeling between North and South furnished the bones of contention. W. E. Leffingwell, Democrat, was opposed for Congress by William Vandever of Dubuque, and they held joint debates throughout the district, which were attended by eager crowds of partisans. The Democrats nominated William McClintock for judge, Elijah Odell for prosecuting attorney, William Pattee for member of board of education and the Republican candidates for these offices were E. H. Williams, Milo McGlathery and A. D. F. Hildreth. Judge Price and Samuel Murdock were bitterly opposed to the election of Williams, and a number of sharp letters were exchanged through the medium of the press. Robert R. Read declined the Democratic nomination for clerk, recom-



mending the support of Updegraff, who had tied for a Republican nomination with Dr. Hutchinson.

In the Times of Sept. 29, 1858, is published a legal notice signed by James McGregor warning against trespass on the Giard claim. This is followed by a lengthy opinion of the Supreme Court, signed by Judge George F. Wright, in which the claim of James McGregor is sustained and the ruling is adverse to Alexander McGregor at every point. It was but a few months after this decision that Alexander McGregor died, his death occurring Dec. 12, 1858, and he was sincerely mourned by the people of the city. A biography of this pioneer citizen is given in another chapter. Alexander McGregor willed to the proprietors of North McGregor \$5,000 to build a road to Monona, 12 miles west, and this work was begun in 1859.

*Journal Founded*—In May, 1858, "The Clayton County Journal" was founded on the ruins of the old Herald, with Willard F. Howard as editor. This paper was published at Guttenberg, was Republican in politics, and took an active part in the defense of Guttenberg as the county seat. The Journal, as the county seat paper, contains, if anything, more of the news of the county than does the McGregor paper. Among other matters mentioned, in its issue of June 10, is the prospective establishment of a large woolen factory at Elkader and it also states, what was not published by the Times, that the railroad company at McGregor was forced to discharge all its men and suspend its operation on account of lack of funds. It was during this year that it was proposed to erect a county high school building at Garnavillo. The citizens subscribed \$2,000, together with two blocks of land, and the county was to give \$18,000 for the building. Later a decision was made that county funds could not be used for this purpose but the building was erected by private parties with the idea that it would be taken over by the county. This was not done and it was operated as a private academy until finally abandoned on account of lack of support.

*Gold Discovery*—It was in 1858 also that there was great excitement on account of the discovery of gold at Strawberry Point. This was said to have been found on the farm of "Widow Massey," and also near Volga City. Not enough was found, however, to pay more than 50 cents a day and the excitement soon died down.

This was a period of great activity in school work. There were school celebrations and picnics in the various parts of the county and the first term of the county high school was announced to open at Garnavillo, September 6, with J. Briggs as principal. At the close of the school term, there was to be a teachers' institute of one week. This school remained open but a few weeks, closing to await the erection of the proposed county building. At the election, all of the Republican candidates received majorities exceeding 300, except Judge Williams, who was defeated in this county by 330, but who was elected by the vote of the district. There had been a change in the judicial districts by the constitution of 1857, which legislated Judge Murdock out of office, and upon the election of Williams, to whom he was bitterly opposed, Judge Murdock instituted proceedings to retain his office for a longer period, but this he later abandoned and Judge Williams took

his seat. Updegraff was re-elected clerk, without opposition. Possibly owing to the small attendance the preceding year the Agricultural Society took no steps toward holding a fair in 1858, but the people of Farmersburg held an independent fair, which proved quite a success.

*First Teachers' Institute*—The first teachers' institute held in Clayton county convened at Garnavillo November 7, 1858. J. Briggs was the conductor, and lectures were delivered by Rev. L. T. Mathews and J. O. Crosby. Others taking part were Mrs. Preston, of Elkader; Miss Smith, of Volga City; Mrs. Morrow, of Volga City; Prof. Bugbee, of Fayette Seminary, and Superintendent Brown. A teachers' association was formed with J. Briggs as president and W. H. Muzzy, of Elkader, as secretary. O. D. Eno was prominent in teaching circles, and announced a meeting to take place at Elkader in January, 1859. This meeting was addressed by E. A. Crary, and essays were read by Mrs. S. A. Angier and Miss Stebbins.

*Murder of William Potter*—The county was again excited by a murder which occurred at Garnavillo. According to the story told by witnesses, a stranger, who gave his name as William Potter, went to the house of John Wentworth and demanded lodging. He was refused and returned to the house with an axe. Wentworth called William Gladdin to his aid and, as Potter rushed at Wentworth with the axe, Gladdin shot him. A coroner's jury heard the case, and Gladdin was acquitted on the grounds of self-defense.

#### YEAR BOOK OF 1859

In January, 1859, the directors of the county high school brought suit against the county judge to compel him to pay \$3,000 to the support of that institution as it was claimed the law provided. Judge Murdock and J. O. Crosby appeared for the high school and Reuben Noble and Milo McGlathey for the town. The decision was against the high school. In February, 1859, the county seat question came to a head before the county court, the adherents of Guttenberg claiming that, under the law, there was no April election to be held. They also attacked the validity of the petition which was sworn to by Alonzo Brown, whereas it was claimed that it should have been sworn to by those who circulated the petition. Judge Crary decided to receive the petition, which was signed by 1,535 voters, and the election was ordered. On March 1 the Journal speaks of the lack of interest in the county seat contest, but there was no lack of interest when the election day approached, and Garnavillo was triumphant by a vote of 1,905, to 1,747 cast for Guttenberg. The Garnavillo people went over to move the county belongings, and there was, at Garnavillo, a repetition of the scenes of rejoicing which had taken place at Guttenberg but a few years before. The same month the Journal migrated also, and it appeared, on January 26, under a Garnavillo dateline. The first mention of Col. Joseph F. Eiboek, who was afterward to become such an important factor, first in Clayton county, then in the state, and afterward in the nation, is found in the Garnavillo Journal of May 10, 1859, when he delivered an address on "Hungary" at the German school. With the location of the county seat at Garnavillo efforts

were made for the erection of a county building, and the grand jury reported the jail as totally unfit and also recommended the erection of a building for county offices. There was too much jealousy throughout the county to permit of any building being done, but Garnavillo took on renewed prosperity with the coming of the county seat.

Guttenberg was not long without a newspaper, and in May, 1859, the Mississippi Valley Register was founded by McBride, Tipton & Co., McBride having formerly been with the Herald. Tipton remained with the paper but a short time and, in January, 1860, O. D. Eno became the editor. It was a democratic paper, and it suspended not long after the election of Lincoln, in 1860. In August, 1859, the McGregor Press was started by George and S. S. Haisitt, and its editor was Orlando McCraney. Unfortunately no copies of these papers are now to be had. The people of Farmersburg were so pleased with the success of their fair in 1858 that they organized and held a second fair in October, 1859, but on account of the excitement pertaining to the election, there was no account of it in any of the county papers.

*Politics*—The campaign of 1859 was bitterly fought. Hon. Timothy Davis was president, and Eliphalet Price was vice president, of the Republican state convention which nominated S. J. Kirkwood for governor. The Democrats nominated A. C. Dodge, and the issues were joined. Joseph Eiboeck purchased the Journal, August 4, 1859, and at first attempted to conduct it as an independent newspaper, but he soon declared himself as a Republican. Mr. Eiboeck quickly showed himself to be a powerful writer and a clear thinker although he was apt to be carried away by his enthusiasms, and he entered at once into the campaign. At the Republican convention held at Garnavillo, Mr. Chesly acted as chairman. There was a contesting delegation from Sperry, and excitement ran high. John Garber, H. S. Granger and E. P. Olmstead were candidates for county judge, Garber being nominated. Jacob Nicklaus was nominated for recorder, W. S. Scott for sheriff, J. W. Van Orman for superintendent, R. G. McClellan for surveyor, Henry Schumacher for drainage commissioner, and F. W. Sherman for coroner. For the legislature, Gilbert Douglas was nominated for the senate and Samuel Merrell and D. C. Baker for representatives. This was the first political recognition of Samuel Merrell, who was afterwards to become governor of Iowa. The Democrats nominated D. Hammer for senator and A. M. Renwick and S. R. Peet for representatives. A third convention, by the so-called "People's party," was called at Clayton Center. A. E. Wanzer was at the head of this movement, and a full county ticket was placed in the field.

Joint meetings were the order of the day, and the Journal tells of such a gathering at Garnavillo. A. C. Rogers, Republican, and Dr. F. Andros, Democrat, presided. D. Baugh, Democratic candidate for county judge, was the first speaker. He was followed by Reuben Noble and, although approving the political portion of his address, Col. Eiboeck disapproved of the personalities with which he attacked Mr. Baugh. Mr. Odell also spoke for democracy. Mr. Eiboeck states that he thinks such meetings do no good and simply excite the people against each other. At this election the proposal to issue bonds for \$15,000, bearing 10 per cent interest, for the erection



of a courthouse, was voted upon and defeated. The result of the election was mixed. Hammer (Dem.) was elected for the senate by 16 majority, and Merrell (Rep.) and Peet (Dem.) were elected representatives. John Garber was elected county judge by a large majority, as was also Jacob Nicklaus. Horace Emery (Dem.) was elected superintendent, Ezra Hurd (Dem.) surveyor, John W. Potts (Dem.) drainage commissioner, John P. Kriebs (Dem.) coroner and John Kauffman (Dem.) sheriff.

It was just after this election that John Brown made his famous raid on Harper's Ferry. Both the Republican and the Democratic papers denounced John Brown in the strongest terms. Col. Eiboeck stated that "we hope they will send him (Brown) to the lunatic asylum for lifetime, or, if he has his senses, hang him at once. Men—nay, not men—Abolitionists, throughout the whole north, appeared to have co-operated with this Brown, and plans have come to light which, if they had succeeded, would have resulted in the death of many thousands, and perhaps in the destruction of this hitherto happy confederacy of the states of America."

In November, 1859, Alonzo Brown makes his report as county superintendent. The number of persons of school age was 6,851, an increase of 489. The number of pupils attending was 3,695, and the average attendance 2,337. One hundred and eight schools were taught in the county, and there were eighty-five schoolhouses, varying in valuation from \$5 to \$3,500. Marion township had had no school, as it had no schoolhouses. Male teachers were paid from \$4 to \$9.50, averaging \$5.50 per week. Female teachers were paid from \$2.08 to \$5 per week, averaging about \$3. The superintendent thinks these wages too low.

#### APPROACH OF WAR

Closing this period, from 1850 to 1860, we find a county that has been tried and tested by adversity but that has come through triumphant. The people have responded to the calls of civic life with splendid zeal and high courage; bent, but not broken, by the hardships they were forced to meet. But this fiery test was but the preparedness for the supreme test of manhood and citizenship which was to come. They had won the victories of peace; the victories of war were before them. The people of Clayton county approached the great crisis in the nation's history with eyes wide open. They had builded well. Their institutions were sane and sound. They had developed and maintained a healthy, sturdy manhood; a manhood which was to go forth, unreservedly, in their country's service. Their consciences were clear and they were unafraid. The men of the south made their greatest mistake in that they did not take into account the quiet, undemonstrative, but no less determined and effective patriotism and fighting qualities of just such men as these in Clayton county. The history of this decade can not be more fittingly ended than by using the prophetic words of Col. Eiboeck, in the Elkader Journal, to close the record of the dying year 1859. "Reader, wherever you may be, look a short distance into the future, and see what stirring events are before you. Let us all be prepared to meet them with becoming man-

hood; let us all stand firmly forth in this country, determined to brave the impending blasts; and Heaven grant that our proud and happy country may outlive the storm. In America, the land of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin, we see around us, everywhere, the signs of a desperate and terrible conflict, such a one as has never before been witnessed since the days of her revolution. Americans, a second great revolution is before you, as great as that which severed your connection with the mother country. On the one side is arraigned the free and independent thinker of the north, the offspring of New England bravery, the sons of New England revolutionists. Men who have depended upon their own labor and industry for all they are and all they expect to be, imbued with a courage and perseverance that are ever active, whether the danger is near or far off. Vigilant in the midst of peace, brave in the midst of danger, and when his principles are involved in the issue, he knows no compromise. For our own part we shall battle with the hosts of freeman, trusting to the rectitude of our principles and a just Providence for success."





## CHAPTER V

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### ANTE-BELLUM DAYS—1860-61—DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

ELKADER COUNTY SEAT—LINCOLN CAMPAIGN—EVENTS OF 1860—RUSH TO PIKE'S PEAK—ELKADER MILL FIRE—BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—COUNTY JAIL—COURT HOUSE—SUPERVISOR SYSTEM CHANGED.

POLITICAL events were moving swiftly throughout the nation, and while the people of Clayton county were intensely interested in all that was going on round about them, they nevertheless pursued the even tenor of their way. The country was emerging from the bitter hard times, and the very intensity with which men grappled with the great moral issues seemed to be reflected in the business world. All of the various towns in the county were enjoying growth and prosperity and making many improvements. The influx of settlers was still great, although not so large as a few years previously. McGregor and Clayton were still great shipping points. There was no railroad to compete with them west of the Mississippi and north of Dubuque, and river traffic was still heavy.

*McGregor Land Titles*—At McGregor there was much building, but this was retarded by the uncertainty as to titles. Having won a decision in his suit against his brother, James McGregor, Jr., had notices served upon the business men of McGregor that they must either buy at his price, or sell to him, or be prepared to stand suit. This course was deeply resented by McGregor citizens, who claimed that the title had not been fully adjudicated, and that, under any circumstances, they were not prepared to pay any price which McGregor might ask. Duncan McGregor, representing the estate of Alexander McGregor, encouraged the business men to disregard these notices of suit, and offered to defend them in case of court action. The citizens met at the office of Noble and Drummond and decided to make no bargains with any party until the case was finally out of court. Senator Hammer, with the aid of Representatives Merrell and Peet, secured the passage of a law to protect settlers from loss in such cases as that at McGregor. Some compromise was finally effected between the McGregor litigants, and James McGregor, Jr., advertises that he will soon be ready to make perfect titles, and the commissioners appointed by court divided portions of the property between the contestants. In April, 1860, the McGregor Land Company, composed of John Thompson, Jedediah Brown, Reuben Noble and O. C. Lee, with Willis Drum-

mond as agent, offered lands for sale, guaranteeing perfect title and opening a new addition which was called "Brickyard Coulee." The litigation was not ended, however, and the matter hung fire for a long time before it was finally adjusted. The business men formed a close alliance, employing attorneys and pledging themselves, in writing, to act as a unit and not to make any personal settlement with James McGregor, Jr.

*Elkader County Seat*—The first part of the year 1860 was largely devoted to a settlement of the county seat question. Elkader was again in the field as against Garnavillo. Col. Eiboek and his newspaper, the Journal, supported his home town, Garnavillo. The Register and the people of Guttenberg, embittered by their own defeat, supported Elkader, just as Elkader previously supported Garnavillo, after its defeat by Guttenberg. McGregor took but little interest in the contest, the Times supporting Garnavillo, but in a mild manner. Among the leaders for Elkader were Judge Price, Mike Weaver, A. E. Wanzer, H. D. Bronson, J. McBride and Lew Davis. The Garnavillo and Guttenberg papers were filled with editorials, contributed articles and burlesques on both sides. The election was held on May 2, and on that day the Journal publishes, in large black type, the following: "We understand that old Wanzer has been trying to mislead several voters, who happened to be Garnavillo men, as to the day of the election. Remember that the election comes off on Monday, the second day of April, 1860." There was one good thing about this election: it was apparent that the people had determined that this would be a final contest, that the county seat should cease to be migratory, and that some suitable buildings should be erected. The vote was Garnavillo, 1,380; Elkader, 2,019.

Immediate steps were taken for the removal of the county property. Judge Garber, Clerk Updegraff, Treasurer Nicklaus and Col. Eiboek made a trip to Elkader to secure suitable quarters for the county seat. They describe Elkader, speaking of the large mill, and saying: "There are four stores in the place, one kept by H. Carter, one by Coates & Co., one by Mr. Boardman, and one by Mr. Ellsworth, recently of McGregor. There are two hotels. The judge was successful in procuring a building for the courthouse, which is a three-story brick house on First street, near the building that was formerly used as a courthouse."

Garnavillo tried to stop the removal, and Judge Williams granted an injunction based on the alleged illegality of the petition under which the election took place. This injunction was speedily dissolved, however, and the removal was made. This election aroused very bitter feelings among the people of Guttenberg, Garnavillo and Elkader. Garnavillo people were especially incensed at Guttenberg, and this feud between the two possible contenders in future elections was a factor in making the county seat permanent, Elkader having retained the seat of government since 1860, a period, now, of fifty-six years. The newspaper followed the county seat, and the Clayton County Journal made its first appearance in Elkader on Monday, April 30, 1860.

*Lincoln Campaign*—The campaign of 1860 has no parallel in American history. It was felt on all sides that the issues involved,

not the presidency alone, but that the question of war or peace, union or disunion, was to be settled. The Democrats met in national convention, were deadlocked for a long period, and finally nominated Stephen A. Douglas for president and Benjamin Fitzpatrick, of Alabama, for vice-president. Fitzpatrick resigned, however, and Herschell V. Johnson, of Georgia, was substituted as vice-presidential candidate. A large number of Democrats seceded from this convention and Breckenridge was also nominated on a Democratic ticket. In the meantime, the Republicans met at Chicago, in May, and after a spirited contest, Abraham Lincoln was made the nominee. In the light of history it might seem that the sentiment of the northern states was all one way, but this was not the case, and the campaign was hardly fought in every state. The influence of the Buchanan administration was thrown to the Breckenridge ticket. Col. Richardson, of McGregor, was a personal friend and strong partisan of Douglass; he was also postmaster at McGregor and, rather than follow the dictates of the administration, he resigned his office. There were meetings some place in Clayton county during almost every night of the campaign. Douglass spoke at Dubuque and Col. Richardson chartered a boat and headed an enthusiastic delegation from McGregor and Guttenberg. The Wisconsin Democratic state convention was held at Prairie du Chien, and prominent citizens of Wisconsin spoke at McGregor. Henry Clay Dean, one of the most noted orators of democracy, spoke at McGregor and at West Union. Ben Samuels, Democratic nominee for Congress, and Vandever, his Republican opponent, had a series of joint debates, speaking, in this county, at McGregor, Elkader and Guttenberg. It was the fashion, in those days, to belittle every effort of the political opponent, so that no fair judgment of these debates can be obtained from the newspaper accounts. At all the towns in the county meetings were held at which local leaders of both parties spoke. D. Baugh, as Democratic chairman, announced meetings at Giard, National, Monona, Garnavillo, Clayton City, Wagner township, Elkader, Cox Creek township, Volga City, Strawberry Point, Yankee Settlement, Elkport, Read township and Guttenberg. The Republicans were no less active. Upon receipt of news of Lincoln's nomination, a ratification meeting was held at Elkader, with James Davis as chairman and T. Updegraff secretary. S. L. Peck, S. P. Adams, of Dubuque, and Reuben Noble addressed the meeting.

A Lincoln Club was formed for Boardman township, with Charles W. Richardson as president, and a vigilance committee was named for each school district. At Strawberry Point, a Lincoln club was formed with Joseph C. Tremain as president and W. H. Stearns as secretary. Hon. R. E. Fenton, a New York Congressman, spoke in Strawberry Point. At Volga City the Republicans were addressed by Elijah Odell, before a crowded schoolhouse. The Republican county convention was held at Garnavillo. At this convention A. C. Rogers and William Leffingwell were candidates for clerk, but both withdrew in favor of H. S. Granger, who was nominated, although he was then in Kansas. James Davis, Reuben Noble, Elijah Odell, B. T. Hunt and Rev. Paul Stockfelt were among the Republican orators, and John T. Stoneman was one of the leaders of democracy.



Men of statewide reputation came into the county to deliver addresses on both sides. Senator Seward spoke at Dubuque, and this was the great rally for northeastern Iowa. A pole raising was given by the Republicans of Elkport. This was attended by 800 Republicans, and a pole 120 feet high was erected, "exceeding in height the Douglass pole in that place by over 50 feet."

The first rooster which ever crowed in the columns of a Clayton county newspaper appears in the Elkader Journal of October 18, 1860, shrieking "Hurrah for Lincoln." This was in jubilation over the Republican success in the October elections in Pennsylvania and Indiana. There are a number of other small cartoons used in this issue, and the Journal boasts: "Those woodcuts in our paper this week were engraved by R. H. Copeland, our foreman. They are well executed, considering the tools he had, which were nothing but an old jack-knife." Thomas Updegraff and Mr. Geyhorn held a joint debate at Elkport. The Guttenberg Register, Democratic, declared that Mr. Updegraff was badly worsted, and the Elkader Journal, Republican, declared that he "got much the better of Mr. Geyhorn." The Lincoln rooster was again called into requisition to celebrate the "Glorious News! Lincoln Elected!" The vote of the county was: Abraham Lincoln, 2,089; Stephen A. Douglas, 1,572; John C. Breckenridge, 14. The rejoicing over the election, on the part of the Republicans, was tempered, however, by the realization that the election of Lincoln meant southern secession and that secession meant war. During the last months of 1860 this became more and more apparent, and the heat of the campaign was succeeded by a glowing fever of patriotism which gradually swept away all partisanship. By the close of the year it was seen that secession was certain.

*Events of 1860*—Despite the excitement of the times there were many events of local importance, and the interests of the people were not entirely confined to political matters. The Good Templars were strong throughout the county and had many lodges. Total abstinence was their pledge, and the order had a large membership. On June 5 a county festival was held at Elkader.

A company of 30 German emigrants arrived at Guttenberg in 1860, having bought a tract of land in Volga township. There were many improvements at Elkader. Clayton was still flourishing, although it was being outstripped by McGregor.

The Fourth of July was generally celebrated throughout the county. At McGregor and Strawberry Point, particularly, were celebrations held. G. L. Tremain was marshal of the day at Strawberry Point. The Odd Fellows had charge of the celebration at Garnaville.

In pursuit of the wary new subscriber, Colonel Eiboeck made a canvass on foot throughout the county, and he gives a splendid view of the countryside. Among other things he said, "In walking a distance of seven miles, in Boardman township, we counted eight new buildings. We entered Cox Creek township and wended our way to Communia, or the old German Colony, as it is called. The society which settled that place is no more in existence, the members being scattered all over the country and the land, which in reality is of the very finest in the county, is 'in law' and is being eaten up entirely by

law suits. At Communia there is a postoffice, kept by B. F. Weis, who keeps a good variety store. There is also a wagon and blacksmith shop and one tavern, the latter kept by Mr. Bauman. A good German physician, Dr. Kraft, is located here, and a superior school is taught by a well-educated male teacher." At Littleport, Colonel Eiboeck noted the new store building being built by Peick & Morath. The farm of "Squire Quigley" is said to be one of the best in the county. He speaks highly of Strawberry Point, of which he says, "They have a fine church, occupied by various denominations; also two schools; the stores in the place are doing a good business; M. O. Barnes and William H. Stearns are entered as merchants; J. B. Miller as a new lawyer and E. P. Rawson as a proprietor of a hotel.

*Rush to Pike's Peak*—It was during these years that there was great excitement concerning the gold discovery at Pike's Peak. Scores of men left this county for the long journey across the plains. They went from every portion of the county, and included not only the young, adventurous, free-footed, single men, but professional men and men with families. Mr. Kinniard of McGregor and H. S. Granger were among those to go. At one time a Pike's Peak ball was held at Garnavillo as a farewell to the many young men who were about to leave that vicinity. A vast majority of these men were disappointed and a large percent of them returned to the county.

Judge John Garber reported the receipts of the county for the year ending July 1, 1860, as \$19,936.49 and the disbursements as \$19,635.90. The outstanding warrants were given as \$1,068.02. In August the contract was let to Daniel Mohr to rebuild the bridge which collapsed at Elkport. Improvements were also made on the abutments of the bridge at Elkader. H. Emery, county superintendent, announced a select school at Monona for teachers and engaged Judge Murdock and Colonel Eiboeck as lecturers.

Concerning religious matters at Elkader, it is stated that "Rev. F. C. Mather of the M. E. Church is about to leave and that Rev. Norton of Volga City will preach in Elkader every two weeks." At this time the Universalists had the strongest protestant church organization in the county, and a county meeting was held in Elkader in October, 1860. In September the county was visited by one of the severest rainstorms ever known. Cattle were destroyed by lightning and the wind did much damage. The county fair was held at National, in October, under the direction of the farmers of Farmersburg township.

A proclamation for an election for a one mill tax for the purchase of a poorhouse farm was issued by Judge Garber, but this proposition was defeated by a vote of 723 to 307. In October, 1860, is found the first mention of kerosene oil as a lighting fluid. This is advertised by S. Ellsworth, and the Journal says of it: "We use it and find it a much cheaper and better light than can be had from any other oil or fluid, besides being very harmless." A portion of the advertisement consists of testimonials, S. I. Hess, B. S. Whitney, Lyman Tyler, J. Eiboeck and John Garber all testifying that they have used kerosene oil with most satisfactory results. A new paper, The Elkader Advertiser was started in 1860, with Mr. Ellsworth as editor. The prob-

ability of secession and war caused a great falling off in markets and prices at Elkader, Nov. 30, 1860, are quoted as follows: Wheat 50c to 55c; oats, 15c; corn, shelled, 30c; barley, 30c; potatoes, 20c. Among the freak election bets should be noticed the one made in Guttenberg by which William Potter solemnly agreed that "if Lincoln is elected he will not drink to exceed four glasses of ardent spirits per day for one month." Eliphalet Price was the other party to this wager and also solemnly swore not to take to exceed four drinks per day if Douglas was elected. This document was sworn to before James Schroeder, justice of the peace.

*Elkader Mill Fire*—On Thursday, December 20, Elkader suffered a severe loss when the mill, which was the center of all its industry, was destroyed by fire. The Journal gives the following account: "On Thursday night last the large flouring and grist mill in this place, owned by Messrs. Thompson & Davis, took fire and burned to the ground. There were from 8 to 10,000 bushels of wheat in the mill at the time, which were also consumed by the fire. The fire was discovered at about 1 o'clock at night, when the flames were seen bursting from out the third-story windows, on the east side of the building. It did not take long to arouse the citizens, but when they reached the spot they soon saw the utter impossibility of saving the mill, the fire having enveloped the whole upper portion of it in one sheet of flame. Notwithstanding this, the doors of the mill were broken open and nearly two hundred barrels of flour saved before the fire reached the first story. There was a strong breeze from the northwest when the fire broke through the roof of the mill, endangering the adjoining buildings; in fact, the whole village. The wind blew sparks of fire as large as a walnut, clear into the lower part of the town, setting fire to haystacks, etc., but which were observed in time and extinguished. Almost adjoining the mill is a stone building, in which is the Journal office and a cooper shop. This house was expected to take fire every moment, and, if it had, it would have been impossible to save it, and the entire block would have been swept away. Our office was saved by tremendous exertions on the part of our friends. Messrs. Alpheus Scott and A. F. Tipton were on the roof of the building when the heat from the fire was so intense that, to keep from burning to death they had to pour water on each other, while on the porch on the second story Messrs. H. B. Carter and Delos Mills were stationed, enduring equal hardships and working as heroically as men could to save the building. They have placed us under everlasting obligations. After the flour was taken out the fire enveloped the entire building, when the citizens on the east side of the river hastened home to protect their own homes from the havoc which the sea of fire that covered the sky was threatening. On most every housetop could be seen some person sprinkling water on the shingles to keep them from burning. The Davis house, which adjoins the Journal office, took fire several times from the sparks that flew onto it and which were fanned by the wind. It was fortunate that the fire did not spread further, though this loss, as it is, is heavy enough. According to Mr. Thompson's estimate, \$35,000 or \$40,000 will scarce cover the damages. And not only will Thompson and Davis suffer from this



loss, but the whole village will feel it heavily. Right in town, a number of persons were thrown out of employment, while in the country, the farmers, who hitherto depended upon the mill for their market, will be compelled to go elsewhere and farther off. The loss is felt by all. The origin of the fire is something that no one has as yet been able to tell. There are rumors that it was set on fire, but whether it is true we are unable to decide. There was no insurance. Mr. Davis declares that before next harvest time another mill will be in running order."

It was during 1860 that it was seriously proposed to run a horse railroad through the Turkey Valley to Dubuque, and Richard T. Morgan went into details, giving cost of construction and operation and probable receipts. Nothing came of this project, however, but it was agitated from time to time.

*Board of Supervisors*—In 1861 the new law went into effect by which the county judge was superseded by a board of supervisors. John Garber was the last county judge. The new board met January 7, 1861. They were elected one from each precinct, and they were among the most prominent men in the county.

Frank Smith was elected president pro tem, and Robert Grant secretary. The first business was the election of a chairman. D. W. Chase defeating O. W. Crary for his position by a vote of 11 to 10. The board then drew lots for one and two year terms. Those drawing one year were O. W. Crary, Farmersburg; Martin Garber, Volga; L. R. Gilbert, Read; Philip Hunter, Millville; Buel Knapp, Boardman; E. Monlux, Wagner; G. S. Peck, Cox Creek; P. G. Bailey, Grand Meadow; W. G. Stoddard, Buena Vista; E. Wood, Jefferson; D. W. Chase, Lodomillo. Those drawing two years were: S. G. Chase, Cass; D. Daugherty, Giard; R. B. Flenniken, Mallory; R. Grant, Mendon; Daniel Lowe, Highland; P. M. Lown, Marion; A. C. Mohrman, Garnaville; P. P. Olmstead, Monona; G. W. Porter, Elk; Frank Smith, Clayton, and A. Bevens, Sperry.

The county judge submitted his final report, and turned the affairs of the county over to the new board. The most important action of the first session was the appointment of a committee to receive bids for building a bridge at Elkader. Aid was also voted for other bridges. This board also took up the matter of renting rooms for the county officers and the purchase of furniture for the courtroom. The financial report showed the county to be in good condition. The expenses for the six months preceding amounted to \$6,520.65, the liabilities were \$3,986.03, and the net assets, above liabilities, were given as \$25,072.03.

In February the contract for the Elkader bridge was let to Milo Adams.

One of the first questions confronting the board was to make suitable provision to house the county officers, and arrangements were made with Bud Knapp to rent the brick building then occupied for \$15 per month. In June it was agreed to rent the Stone Hall for \$75 per year, for use only for the court and when the board was in session. Joseph Ross was appointed "fireman," with instructions to light the room and attend, generally, upon the board. In November, Reuben Noble and other members of the bar petitioned that a railing be

placed around the desk and bar in the courtroom and that "the aisles of said room be provided with straw mattresses and cozy and comfortable seats for the jury." The board granted this humble petition, but limited the cost to \$25. In 1862 a special committee reported that the poorhouse as then conducted was expensive and in bad condition, and the board ordered it closed, the property leased and the goods sold. Later it was found that the township system of caring for paupers was still more expensive and, in June, 1864, it was proposed to appropriate \$2,000 for a poor farm, and a committee was appointed to make the purchase. In October this first committee was excused and S. R. Gilbert was appointed. In January, 1865, Mr. Gilbert reported the purchase of sixty acres of land in Read township for \$1,500, and the partial agreement to buy forty acres of timber land in addition. This purchase was approved and \$2,000 voted for poor farm buildings. Later the forty acres of timber were bought for \$480 and, in January, 1866, an additional \$2,000 was voted for buildings. August Millenhansen, of Guttenberg, was the first steward appointed.

*The County Jail*—The difficulties encountered in relation to the Elkader bridge have already been recounted. Another matter which required the attention of the board was that of the county jail. Although the courts sat in Elkader, the jail was still located at Garnavillo, and it was insanitary and unfit in every way. This condition was recognized at the June session, 1862, when the board proposed an appropriation of \$2,000 for a jail at Elkader, providing the city would contribute an equal amount in cash or its equivalent and provide a site. Elkader was not sure of the county seat, and did not respond to this invitation, and repairs were made on the Garnavillo jail and a temporary jail ordered at Elkader. In 1864 the proposal to vote a tax for building a jail was submitted to the people and defeated. A like proposition, in 1865, met with a like fate; however, two sets of balls and chains were provided for the sheriff and handcuffs were purchased for every township in the county. In June, 1868, the grand jury reported that the jail was "a shame and a disgrace." Acting upon this report the board again submitted the question of erecting a \$15,000 jail, and this was carried. Following the election, E. H. Williams, John Garber and James Davis were appointed to secure a site. They reported in favor of the purchase of seventeen acres from L. A. Beardsley's addition to East Elkader, for the sum of \$1,700, and this report was accepted. James Davis, John Garber and D. W. Chase were appointed as the building committee, work was commenced at once, and by the close of 1869 the foundations were completed. E. W. H. Jacobs was the architect, and he, with James Davis, made an eastern trip to obtain ideas on construction. The work was pushed rapidly in 1870, with J. A. Hysham as superintendent of workmen and J. H. Sandusky as head mason. The jail was constructed without letting a contract except for the steel work, and it stands as a monument to the honesty and good workmanship of the builders. The total cost of the jail, including site, was \$24,679.58. Under the war history has been given a statement of the various acts of the supervisors relative to bounties and the relief of soldiers.

*Court House*—In 1862, steps were taken looking toward the erec-

tion of a permanent court house at Elkader. In June, it was voted to appropriate \$2,000 for a building for the county officers, providing Elkader donated eight lots and \$1,000 in cash, \$2,000 was also voted for a court room, providing Elkader gave \$1,000. Nothing came of it at the time, however, and the county continued to rent the Stone Hall. In June, 1863, a resolution was offered to rescind these appropriations but the motion was lost. Again in 1865, a motion to buy Stone Hall as the court was tabled and, instead, a proposition for a tax for a court house was submitted. This was defeated by nearly 600 majority and, in January, 1866, urged by Elkader people, and by the very evident necessity for some permanent county home, the board took the bull by the horns and took the first step toward the erection of a court house by appropriating \$2,000 for a treasurer's office, providing the citizens of Elkader gave a suitable site. Two thousand dollars additional was voted to build a vault for the safe-keeping of the funds and records. The vote on this resolution, stood 13 to 6. According to law, \$2,000 was the limit of the appropriations which the board might make without a vote of the people and these piecemeal appropriations were undoubtedly made for the purpose of circumventing the law. However, it would seem, in this instance, that the end justified the means, and no one today regrets the action of the board. Again, in June, 1866, \$3,000 was appropriated to build a recorder's and treasurer's office, providing a site was given. In September, the old court house at Garnavillo was sold at auction for \$3,000 and at the same session it was moved that the appropriation voted in June be rescinded and that the site offered by Elkader was not satisfactory. The motion to rescind appropriations was lost by a vote of 9 to 7, and that rejecting the site was lost on a tie vote, the chairman voting in favor of accepting the site. In 1867, an election was held on the county seat question and Elkader defeated Garnavillo by more than 700 and, following the canvass of the vote, the board appropriated \$2,000 to finish the clerk and treasurer's office. In the summer of 1867, the site having been accepted, the actual work of construction was commenced. The work was well done and this is a part of the court house as it stands today.

*Supervision System Changed*—The board had much to do with the sale of school lands and the so called swamp lands and, while today, it seems a pity that these were sold at prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$4.00 per acre, they did no differently than was done by the government and the state and other counties. This method of county government by the board of supervisors, one man from each township, was cumbersome and expensive and it was not regretted when, in 1870, the law was changed and the board reduced to three members.





## CHAPTER VI

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### WAR HISTORY—1861-1865—EVENTS AT HOME

CALL TO ARMS—RESPONSE—GATHERING OF CLAN MCGREGOR—OFF FOR THE FRONT—RELIEF PROVISIONS—RANGERS GO TO WAR—FIRST KILLED—DAY OF PRAYER—DARK DAYS OF 1862—VOLUNTEERS—CENOTAPH SOCIETY—MORE ENLISTMENTS—DAYS OF '63—PEACE PARTY—SANITARY SOCIETY—WAR TIDE TURNS—IN THE SHADOW OF THE DRAFT—ELECTION OF 1864—SANITARY FAIR—DARKEST HOUR—DRAFTING—SUPPLEMENTARY DRAFT—DEATH OF LINCOLN—HOMECOMING.

AS THE days passed between the election of Abraham Lincoln and his inauguration, it became more and more apparent that the south was to secede. Every river packet, bringing the eagerly sought newspapers from the outside world, carried the news of fresh acts of aggression. A confederacy was formed; South Carolina passed acts of secession; the southern press breathed defiance and rebellion, and this defiance was hurled back by the newspapers of the north. There were great debates in Congress; men of the north and of the south came near to blows, while others temporised, hoping against hope, that some peaceful solution might be found. Men hung upon the words of Lincoln; every step of his journey from Illinois to Washington was followed with breathless interest; every word that he uttered was weighed by an anxious and excited people.

It is a mistaken idea to believe that the abolition of slavery was the moving factor in the minds of northern men. This was not the case. In his inaugural address Lincoln declared, "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe that I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so." There was a firm conviction in the hearts of many that slavery was wrong and that it should not be extended into free territory. There was, however, strong race prejudice, and it was only the abolition "cranks" who championed equal civic rights for men, regardless of race or color. This is evident from the fact that, but a short time previous, the people of Iowa refused to strike the word "white" from their constitution. Nevertheless, the conviction grew and solidified, throughout the north, that the Union must and should be preserved. Earnestly, quietly and grimly men were facing the problem, counting the cost, and determining, if need be,

to die for their country. Events moved swiftly in 1861. Lincoln's eastern journey grew to be a triumphal progress. Back of the cheers of northern enthusiasts was the sullen roar of southern threats, as the sound of distant cannon. There were the repeated acts of secession, the hurrying of government munitions to the south, the threats that Lincoln should never reach Washington alive. Then came the great inaugural address, received with enthusiasm throughout the north and with suspicion and hatred throughout the south. Then came acts of armed rebellion. The seizure of forts and arsenals, the firing upon Fort Sumpter, and then the call of Father Abraham for 75,000 men.

These events following in quick succession, stirred the north to its very center. In Clayton county men thought or talked of but little else. Union meetings were held, fervid orators held forth, party lines broke down and when the call came, Clayton county was ready. All the years of freedom spent in the open, in the woods and on the prairie had hardened their frames and strengthened their love of liberty. All the blood of their forebears, whether from that sturdy New England stock which had twice defeated Britain, or whether from the liberty loving peoples who preferred to face the hardships of a new world, rather than to abide the tyrannies of the old; all the years of independence and self-government had given them a patriotism and a preparedness the equal of which has not been seen in the world before nor since. They were fit physically for any hardship which war might impose and they were burning with patriotic zeal. It is here that the south made its gravest mistake. It did not know the men of Clayton county and of the hundreds of like counties throughout the north. Because they were remote, because they were for the most part silent, the chivalry of the south totally underestimated the strength and valor of these northern warriors.

The response to Lincoln's call was swift and immediate. It swept like a fire across the prairie. Hardly was the ink dry upon the message of Governor Kirkwood before the men in Clayton county were in action. "War! War! War! Henceforth only two parties, Patriots and Traitors!" thundered the Republican Journal at Elkader; "To Arms! To Arms! Our much loved country is in danger, the flag is dishonored by those who have heretofore enjoyed its protection. The liberty of every freeman is at stake. Let all those that will stand by the Union and by the right, stand forth," answered the Democratic Times at McGregor. The county became an armed camp within a day. There was a meeting at Farmersburg, where volunteers enlisted and the farmers raised \$1,500 for the support of the families of the volunteers. F. Hofer rushes from Littleport to have the Journal print hand bills announcing the great war meeting. Under the leadership of Capt. W. H. Muzzy a delegation of young men, headed by fife and drum, marches through the cheering streets of the little village of Elkader and goes to Littleport to attend the meeting. Dennis Quigley acts as chairman, and it is a wonderful comment upon the spirit of the times that the first work of the meeting, before any speeches were made and before any names were entered upon the enlistment roll, was to spend several hours in drill. Then came the speeches by S. R. Peet, Prof. Kramer, of Elkport, Ben Smith, of Littleport, and A. F. Tipton.



of Elkader. Then came the call for volunteers, by F. Hofer, and 14 young men stepped forth and declared themselves ready to go at an hour's notice, while 35 others bespoke their willingness to go as soon as they could arrange their home affairs.

At Elkader there was a meeting at the court house. H. B. Carter presided and Douglas Leffingwell, a lieutenant in the rapidly forming company of Clayton county volunteers, made a patriotic speech and was followed by Mr. Remick of McGregor, B. T. Hunt, and James Davis. The minutes of a meeting already held at Farmersburg were read and everybody joined in singing "Hail Columbia," "My Country," and "The Star Spangled Banner". Another meeting was held a few days later. D. D. Hutchins told of the progress of the volunteer company at Farmersburg; M. E. Smith of Volga City proposed a grand county military festival at Elkader on the Fourth. The afternoon session was not sufficient and the patriots adjourned until evening and before the work of the day was done, 30 more Elkader boys had signed the enlistment roll. The river towns were aflame. At Guttenberg John Schroeder took the lead and the sturdy Germans who had fought for liberty in 1848 shouldered the musket and declared their willingness to fight again. There was no fear of the hyphenated American in those days and, with the veterans of Europe's wars in its ranks the Guttenberg company soon became known as the best drilled in northern Iowa. From Strawberry Point and Volga and Elport and Littleport and Yankee Settlement, from Clayton and Garnaville and National, from Monona and Giard and Grand Meadow, from every hill and valley in the county men sprang up as though the very soil had been sown with dragon's teeth.

*Gathering of Clan McGregor*—McGregor, as the most important shipping point in Iowa, north of Dubuque, became the first concentration camp for all northeastern Iowa. To this place came the boys from Allamakee and Decorah and Fayette and from all parts of Clayton county. Over the long trails which led to the prairies of the back country, instead of oxen with their creaking loads of grain, came hurrying men on horse back and on foot to serve their country. The city itself was ablaze with patriotism. The president's call was but a few days' old when a meeting of citizens was called at Concert Hall. "McGregors arouse," were the words of the Times. "Let the clans assemble at Concert Hall on Wednesday evening and fill up the ranks of the proposed military organizations instantler. Let every loch and glen send forth its chiel ready for the fray. It is no time for holiday work; the company is designed for business—no less than the preservation of our government and all the institutions so dear to every patriotic heart."

Before each business place and residence floated the Stars and Stripes; the arrival of every boat was greeted by crowds eager for the latest news of war; the flag floating on each river craft was greeted with cheers; to Captain Sherwin of the Packet McGregor, was given the honor of having unfurled the first national flag upon the waters of the Upper Mississippi after the overt treason of Jeff Davis' crew; within a few hours the business men of McGregor pledged \$600 per month for the support of the families of volunteers. The sound of

the drum and fife was heard at every hour of the day. A visitor at McGregor writing for the Dubuque Times says, "There were thousands of American flags displayed at McGregor, there was a ceaseless rataplan of snare drums, and an everlasting booming of the bass and the ear piercing screech of the fife, all the time we sojourned there. It was the last we remembered at night and the first to greet us in the morning." Concert Hall was filled to overflowing at this first Union meeting at McGregor, Democrats and Republicans vied with each other, party spirit was entirely ignored. Mayor Hobart presided and speeches were made by Pass, Hand, Baugh, Drummond, Stoneman, Remick, Leffingwell, Felt, Peck, Barron, Updegraff, Calkins, Douglas and Hobart. It was resolved: "That discarding all political or partisan consideration in this hour of our country's danger we mutually pledge to each other as American citizens as a common defense our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honors."

*Off for the Front*—The military company, under Capt. S. B. Sladden, which was to be a part of the splendid Third Iowa Infantry, was quickly formed and the Captain returns from a rush trip to Davenport with the glad news that the company will be accepted. R. L. Freeman organizes the first company of cavalry formed in Iowa, spends \$200 of his money in a futile attempt to have it included in the First Cavalry Regiment, returns bitterly disappointed but persists in his determination and later leads his men to war. In the meantime the men are gathering from all the countryside around. Across the river, at Prairie du Chien, the men of Wisconsin are gathering. There are exchange of visits, wild cheers, martial music, speeches that glowed and burned with patriotism. The narrow coulee is filled with marching men and troops of cavalry. The uniforms of grey cloth are ordered, and the busy women, wives, mothers, sweethearts, work together to make uniforms for their boys. Every sewing machine in the town is forced into service. By dollar subscriptions the bunting is bought, at a cost of \$50, to make the great flag, army regulation size, to fly at the flag pole and go with the company. With proud but trembling fingers the women sew the silken folds of the banner which was to lead the men at Shiloh and at Vicksburg. Miss Francis Boynton made the presentation address and Lieut. Leffingwell responded on behalf of the volunteers. The boats are moored out in the river and here the soldiers sleep at night, drilling by day and awaiting anxiously the word to go to the front. The companies from West Union and Decorah arrive and with them come a great consort of fathers and mothers and wives and children and sweethearts. The word comes to move to the front. It is a busy day at McGregor, the soldiers are hurried with final preparations, bands are playing; flags flying, crowds cheering and, through it all, there is the undertone of sadness, of stifled sobs and silent tears. The companies from West Union and Decorah fall into line and march up the narrow valley escorting their loved ones as they start to return to saddened, emptied homes; and there, at the top of the coulee, where woods and prairie meet, are said the parting words, which in too many cases were last farewells. And then the boats are filled with the departing volunteers, the decks are thronged with eager faces; crowds, some silent, some

cheering, line the shores. The crash of music drowns the sound of sobs. The whistle blows, the steamship Canada backs slowly from the shore, the sound of the cheers grows fainter and is stilled by distance; waving handkerchiefs and flags must take the place of loving words; and then, the boat is hidden around the bend of the river and the boys are gone; gone, many of them, out of the lives of Clayton county, forever. These scenes were repeated, not only at McGregor, but at every town and hamlet in the county, many times as the war progressed; call after call came from the president, for men and ever more men, and to every call old Clayton county responded, until at home there remained few but the women and the children, the old and the disabled. They responded to the call in the first rush of wild excitement, and they responded in the dark days when the defeat at Bull Run and the delays and blunders of incompetent generals cast gloom and terror throughout the nation; they responded after they had seen the boys return wounded, crippled and broken by disease and hardship; they responded after they had read the long roll of the dead and after the deep sorrow of eternal parting had entered an hundred homes.

Included with this chapter are the names of those who enlisted from Clayton county in the war for Union and to this list is added the roll of honor of 195 men, who died upon the field of battle, in the hospital or rebel prison pen. In this history there have been recorded the names of many who took prominent part in the political and commercial activities of the county, until these names have become fairly familiar. But, in reading the list of the volunteers, there appear hundreds of names which have not before been mentioned. This means that it was not the leaders alone, not the prominent men only, but that men, who had been content with the modest part of the ordinary citizen and voter, came, from every rank and every occupation, to take their place in the Union ranks. The vast majority of them were young men, sons of the men who had made the county great. Many of them, in after years, took active part in the affairs of their county and their state, but at this time, they were new and untried, but filled with a patriotism which must forever emblazon their names upon Clayton county's roll of honor.

*Relief Provisions*—The board of supervisors as the governing body of the county took early and repeated action to support the families of the volunteers and to encourage enlistment. On June 4, 1861, the board voted that for each company of 100 men, \$13 be paid for each man, for the purpose of procuring uniforms. Two days later, the board voted \$1 a week for the wife and 50 cents a week for each child of a volunteer where support was needed. This order was extended and enlarged, from time to time, and, by June, 1862, \$3,794 had been spent for the relief of the families of volunteers. By its famous "order No. 316" this aid was extended by unanimous vote, to "the widows and children of those who have died or may die in the service of the country." In August, the board voted \$60 for each volunteer who should enlist under the call of the president for 300,000 men and this order was, later, made to include all who enlisted between July 1 and Sept. 1, 1862. A year later, the board widened the scope of its relief to include the families of volunteers, although they might tem-



porarily reside in other counties. In 1864 this relief was again extended, to include the families of all, except those of commissioned officers, who were accepted in the regular or volunteer service, if accredited to Clayton county, without regard to their place of residence at the time of enlistment. Throughout the entire war the policy of the county government, although not extravagant, was just and liberal and patriotic and the people bore this added taxation, which was heaped on top of increased state taxes and heavy stamp and internal revenue taxes, not only without complaining, but with cheerful generosity, and with urgings, not to do less, but to do more. The period of these war expenditures on the part of the county covered eight years. The highest amount paid for bounties was \$30,875.00 paid in 1862, and for relief of soldiers' families, the highest amount in any one year was in 1864 when \$33,849.09 was spent. The total paid for bounties by the county government was \$43,229.89 and for relief \$106,098.52. To this must be added the large amount given by private subscription, not only during the first outburst of enthusiasm at the beginning of the war but throughout the war for the purpose of encouraging enlistment. This amounted to fully as much as was paid by the county, and to this again, must be added the large amount which the women of the county raised in cash and supplies for the relief of the wounded soldiers at the front. In every way Clayton county did its duty.

*Rangers Go to War*—It was not long until the Rangers, the cavalry troop organized by Capt. Freeman was ordered to the front and the following graphic description of their leave taking is taken from the Times: "On Thursday evening of last week, the Canada—the same boat which carried off the Clayton county boys—came down to our levee and expressed her willingness to take the Rangers on board. Then there was a hurrying to and fro, mounting in hot haste, gathering up of personal traps, exchanging farewells, and an embarkation. One by one the brave fellows came down through the gathering crowds, and attended their horses on board. Capt. Freeman was in his element—cheerful, vivacious, omnipresent; his pet Rangers, after much embarrassment and delay, were now to make a start for the war. A shrill blast from the brass piece above the texas, soon announced that it was nearly time to be off. By common consent the boys scrambled off to exchange farewells; Capt. Freeman spent a moment in the sad yet pleasant leave taking of his interesting family. It was an impressive moment and a trial for brave hearts; no tears were shed; indeed, there seemed to be a Spartan cheerfulness in the sacrifice which Mrs. Freeman made for her country. When they had all got on board a few appropriate words of farewell were addressed them by Mr. Hammer and Mr. Noble—the big brass whistle shrieked its impatience—the bell was tapped again—the ponderous wheels commenced their revolution—and the boys were off, amid the cheers of the great crowd which lined the levee. In the silence which ensued as the boat swung down the stream, occasionally would be heard the last sentiment of some brave heart in a loud "Farewell, McGregor!" Of the 95 men in this company of Rangers, but 3 were more than 40 years of age, 12 were in their 30's, 67 between 20 and 30, and 13 were still in their 'teens.

*First Soldier Killed*—The first death of one of the Clayton county volunteers was that of Hervey Dix, of Monona, a corporal in the Third Iowa Infantry. The report from the front was as follows: "He was out on a scout with five men. While taking dinner in a secession farm house, they were surrounded by rebels, 18 in number, who demanded a surrender. Dix replied, 'I never surrender.' Upon this the firing commenced. Dix rushed from the house and shot down two of them, wounding two or three of them with his revolver, when he was shot from behind by a concealed rebel. The ball passed through his head, killing him instantly. The remainder of the Union detachment escaped. They killed six rebels in the yard, while the seventh lay mortally wounded, perforated with eight bullets. Lieut. Crawford saw the wounded rebel who said, just before his death, 'Corporal Dix is the bravest man I ever saw. If the North has many such we had better give up.'" The death of Dix cast a gloom over the whole company, and the news, when received in Clayton county, brought home to the people the grim realities of war.

*Day of Prayer*—The last day of September, 1861, was set apart as a day of fasting and of prayer by a proclamation of the president, Louis Benton, Jr., acting mayor of McGregor, also issued a proclamation, and it may well be believed that it was observed by the people of Clayton county with solemn hearts. As early as October, the wounded began coming back from the front, but the enlistments were not checked by knowledge of fatalities. The Northwestern Rifles was the name of another company organized in the county, and Capt. Charles H. Lewis, of the Sixteenth U. S. Regular Infantry, made McGregor headquarters and recruited 122 men from Clayton and surrounding counties. Col. Eiboeck, editor of the Elkader Journal, laid down his pen and enlisted as a private in the company of Alvah Bevins, following the footsteps of William H. Muzzy, of the same paper, who was already at the front with the Rangers. During their absence the paper was edited by A. C. Rogers. The company, under Capt. Bevins, was known as the Volga Rifles. There were 27 men from Sperry township, who were joined at Elkader by 32 men from Guttenberg and together they marched to McGregor and joined the regiment commanded by William Vandever, the Congressman from this district.

*Woman's Part*—In November, 1861, the first appeal was made to the women of Clayton county to organize a society to relieve the sick and wounded soldiers. A meeting was called at the Davis house in Elkader, November 22, and a large number of ladies were present. This was called the Sanitary Society and their activities throughout the war form a chapter of history which should not be neglected. The officers of this society were Mrs. S. Ellsworth, president; Mrs. W. W. Patch, vice-president; Mrs. H. S. Granger, secretary; Mrs. V. Boller, treasurer; Mrs. L. G. Davis, depositary. The committee to solicit donations was Mrs. V. Boller, Mrs. L. V. Davis, Mrs. S. Ellsworth, Miss Mary C. Fuller, Mrs. B. Knapp, Miss Mary L. Muzzy, Miss Malvina Stewart and Mrs. Milo Adams, and they at once proceeded with the good work, and within a week they were able to report having raised over \$40 in cash and supplies donated as follows: Mrs. Buel Knapp, 3 yards ticking; Mrs. V. Boller, 4 pillows; Mrs. L. V. Davis,

6 pillows, 2 towels, 6 pillow cases; Mrs. Oglesbee, 1 quilt; Mrs. P. M. Potter, 1 dressing gown. On December 2, a branch was formed at Volga City with the following officers: President, Mrs. L. Chapman; vice-president, Mrs. L. H. Drake; secretary, Miss Abbey White; treasurer, Mrs. J. Chapman; depositary, Mrs. R. Norton; soliciting committee, Mrs. S. Crane, Mrs. S. Bush, Mrs. F. Cummings, Mrs. J. Chapman, Mrs. L. Chapman and Miss Abbey White.

By the middle of December the ladies of McGregor organized for Union Sociables, having same end in view. The officers of this society were: President, Mrs. Hibbard; vice-president, Mrs. Flanders; secretary, Miss Updegraff; treasurer, Miss H. Hammond; collector, Mrs. Tenney.

Mrs. Ellsworth and Laura Stewart were active in the work at Elkader and there is hardly an issue of the Elkader paper which does not contain some account of their proceedings. At first, direct donations were relied on, but later a series of programs were given. The first of these was given at the Stone Hall in March, 1862. This was a lengthy program of music, readings and tableaux. The receipts were \$24 and Mr. Potter gave \$1 premium for the silver change. People were in attendance from all over the county. Mrs. Dr. Blanchard was elected president and Mrs. L. Stewart, secretary, Mrs. Stewart being one of the guiding spirits of the society throughout the war. The Clayton society was organized December 12, 1861, and the officers were Mrs. Mary E. Forsythe, president; Mrs. F. Monger, vice-president; Mrs. E. M. Jerome, treasurer and secretary.

*Dark Days*—In March came news of the wounding of A. J. Price, son of Eliphalet Price, and but a few days later the announcement of the death of Capt. A. W. Drips, who was killed at the battle of Pea Ridge, while gallantly leading his brave men in one of the most terrible and sanguinary fights of the war. Capt. Drips was the former editor of the Clayton County Herald, moving from this county to Maquoqueta, where he established the Excelsior, a newspaper which is in existence today. Capt. Drips was dearly beloved in this county and his death was greatly mourned. It was at Pea Ridge, also, that Capt. Alvah Bevins gave up his life for his country, and of him the McGregor Times says: "We have not yet learned the details of his death, but only know that he fell in action at the head of his men while dashing upon the enemy. The event has cast a gloom over the whole county, for Capt. Bevins was universally known, loved and respected. He was no holiday soldier, seizing a commission for the honors and emoluments thereof; he drew his sword because his flag was menaced—because an armed rebellion threatened the division of the glorious old Union of which he was so proud. He has fallen, but standing around his ashes, the loyal men of old Clayton will demand that indemnity be made for the loss of the noble men who have been slaughtered by traitors to the government." The battle of Shiloh claimed a fearful toll from the boys of Clayton county, and the days of 1862 were anything but happy ones for those who loved their country. The army of the Potomac delayed and hesitated, failed to follow up what victories it won and news of defeat and of bloody losses filled the columns of the papers. In Clayton county, however,



the work of recruiting and the work of furnishing relief went on without interruption. In May, as a result of numerous entertainments, the Sanitary Society of Elkader was able to report \$128 receipts during the 3 months preceding. At Garnaville Mr. and Mrs. Angier turned their house over to relief work. Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Rev. Mathews, Mrs. Brewster, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Dr. Linton, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Barnes and daughter, Miss R. Shaw, and Miss L. Angier were among the Garnaville women mentioned as active in relief work.

*Volunteers*—The Elkader Journal has the following to say concerning enlistments in the summer of 1862: "The majority of the townships are doing nobly in the way of volunteering. Some of them are turning out extraordinarily; Little Buena Vista leads the van by sending 50 per cent of all the men in the township liable to military duty. Four companies were full August 15. Capt. William Crooke's company left on Saturday for Dubuque to take its place in the Twenty-first Regiment as Company B, with 104 men. Capt. Elisha Boardman has enrolled about 115 and Lieut. Grannis started with a portion of his company for Dubuque on Tuesday morning, via Strawberry Point and the railroad. Capt. Thomas G. Drips' company elected officers at Farmersburg on Monday. This company joined the Twenty-seventh Iowa. Capt. Benton's company also elected officers and is ready to depart for camp at any time. Woolsencroft, Shepherd and Williard are raising a company at Monona. Cleghorn and Frank Hammer are raising still another company at McGregor. Capt. Boardman's company was presented with a banner by the ladies at Elkader, Miss Estella Griswold making the presentation speech, which was replied to by B. T. Hunt. At Dubuque, Squire Hutchins presented a flag to Capt. Drips' company and Sergeant G. Williams replied, thanking the patriotic citizens of Farmersburg, Monona, Grand Meadow and Wagner townships and pledged the company to shed the last drop of blood rather than see the flag trailing in the dust."

Concerning these melancholy days of 1862, the Elkader Journal says: "All is dark and gloomy. No news to gladden the American patriot's heart. No victories to cheer the lonely widow and the doting mother, but sad, sad reports of our struggling armies. No hope for a speedy suppression of the rebellion and a restoration of peace; but all is dark. All the bright prospects of a few months since have vanished; all the hopes then fondly entertained are now gone, and to all of this we are expected not to murmur. Can we avoid it? This is the darkest hour of our country's affliction. Never has a nation had more cause for desponding than we now have." In response to an appeal for relief provisions, made by the Governor, a war meeting was called at the court house, over which Thomas Updegraff presided, with Alpheus Scott, as secretary. This meeting began active efforts, both to increase enlistments and secure supplies. It is recorded that the ladies did not wait for a meeting, but that two of them started out with a team and solicited provisions. Mrs. E. M. Jerome, as secretary of the Clayton Aid Society, makes the report and a list of contributions fills half a column of the Journal. One of the pleasant events of the wartime was the presentation of a sword to Capt. E. Boardman. The Stone Hall was crowded and B. T. Hunt, Douglas Rogers and J. O.

Crosby were the speakers. An Irish regiment was formed at Dubuque and Col. Eiboeck, who had returned from the war on account of ill health, went into the southwestern tier of townships to obtain volunteers.

In November, 1862, Eliphalet Price, then of Guttenberg, proposed the erection of a monument to the Clayton county soldiers who lost their lives on the field of battle. He suggested as a committee Mrs. Alvah Rogers and Mrs. Laura Stewart of Elkader; Mrs. Bixby, Lodomillo; Mrs. D. Scott, Monona; Mrs. John Stoneman and Mrs. C. F. Remick of McGregor and Mrs. Bosecker of Guttenberg as the committee. This suggestion was acted upon and a county organization formed and a prospective site selected, but, although revived from time to time, the necessity of caring for the living was all that could be done, and it remained for this generation to provide the beautiful monuments which are now to be found in Clayton county cemeteries in memory of the soldier dead.

*More Enlistments*—In August, 1862, D. E. Meyer organized the Stuben Guards, a company largely composed of Germans and recruited in Guttenberg. This was the fifth company organized in Clayton county. A war meeting was held at Guttenberg which was attended by a large delegation from McGregor and Prairie du Chien. Reuben Noble delivered the address and it is said that the company was filled within two days. Samuel Merrill of McGregor was commissioned Colonel of the Twenty-first Regiment and left, in September, 1862, to take command of his regiment. In spite of all these voluntary enlistments, so great was the need of troops that it was feared the draft must be used and all persons between 18 and 45 were listed in preparation. The time for volunteering was extended, however, and the dreaded draft was not employed in Iowa, in 1862. Commissioner Crosby enrolled 4,792 men in this county, as subject to military duty. The threat of a draft stimulated enlistment, as the advantages of being a volunteer were many, as they received better pay and large bounty. In some townships, organizations were formed which paid bounties to volunteers in order that the draft might be avoided. In October, a cavalry company was formed to join Wilson's Independent Regiment. Erin S. Ames was elected captain and Hiram A. Park, Alpheus Scott and Sam B. Coil were elected lieutenants. This company was mustered in, in the spring of 1863, and was part of the Sixth Cavalry, which was assigned to duty against the Indians along the Upper Missouri.

*Days of '63*—The year 1862 closed with the news of the battle of Fredericksburg with the tremendous Union losses and it is not to be wondered that there were dissensions and misgivings among the Union men and that various projects of compromise with the south were seriously considered. Slavery had grown to be the paramount issue of the war. The president had issued a proclamation freeing many of the slaves and this advanced step had caused disruption in his cabinet. The incomplete victory and the defeat of the Union arms had discouraged the people and it was not without foundation that the Elkader Journal said in its New Year's editorial, "We may well look back with awe and reverence on 1862. It has passed, but the recollections



of it will never pass away. Its great events will live green in the memory of scores of future generations; and happy may those deem themselves that were permitted to take a part in its important transactions, for their names and their deeds will live forever. But 1863 claims our attention now; a year that promises more, even, than the past has given us. This year is to see the accomplishment of all that for which we have been contending for two years. This, the third year, is to see the actual downfall of slavery; and today, a proclamation partly to that effect, becomes a fact. This insuring as it does the success of the Union cause, establishes the principle of self-government forever and throughout the world. Then, all hail to 1863."

*"Peace Party"*—The dark days of 1862 continued through the first half of 1863; in fact the crisis became more acute in every way. The non-success of the Union arms bred an army of critics of Lincoln and created a large "Peace Party" who believed that the south could not be beaten, who were not in sympathy with the freeing of the slaves and who held that there was nothing left but to offer an acceptable compromise to the south. The Union men argued that these criticisms and talks of compromise served only to encourage the south. Party feeling which had been lost sight of at the beginning of the war again developed. The politicians of the Republican party wished to reap, for themselves, the reward of the great impetus the war had given their party. Very naturally, this was distasteful to the former Democratic leaders, especially those Union Democrats, who felt that the Republicans had no copyright to patriotism. All this led to much bitterness and to suspicion and distrust among the people of the north. In Clayton county Union clubs were formed in nearly every town. These meetings were largely attended, fiery addresses were made, attacking the Copperheads and strong resolutions were passed. These were somewhat in the nature of secret societies; at Guttenberg, it required a two-thirds vote to admit a new member. On the other hand, every man who did not attend or ask to join was looked upon with distrust and as disloyal to the Union. That there were grounds for this feeling is undeniable.

In the light of history it seems incredible that any man could have said the things attributed to speakers at the Peace Convention in the report of that meeting given in the *Elkader Journal*. According to Col. Eiboeck one of the speakers said: "It is an Abolition war. I am a peace man now, but, if the government interferes with my freedom of speech, I am a war man! The Union can't be saved. The south is too strong for it. They have gained all the victories and they will continue to do so. It is useless for us to fight." This speaker is said to have called Lincoln "a usurper" and to have called upon the people "to resist the tyranny of Lincoln." Another is quoted as saying, "I will suffer my right arm to be severed from my side before I will support the government." In the following issue the *Journal* insists that these words were spoken at the convention and that the speakers were correctly quoted. It is needless to give the names of these men, for something must be allowed for the partisan report of the meeting and the men themselves doubtless lived to bitterly regret their words.



There were reports, or rather rumors, that lodges of the Knights of the Golden Circle existed in the county. This was a secret order of northern sympathizers with the south, and to its door were laid many atrocities, such as the poisoning of wells, the spread of epidemic diseases and the attempt to conspire with Canada for a British invasion. The Journal asserts that there were branches of this order at McGregor and at Garnaville and "thinks" there was one at Elkader. There is no proof of this, however, and it is better to put it down as a mere rumor, based upon the intense loyalty of the writer. The answer to these "peace meetings" was given at the Union Convention held at Elkader and at the great mass meeting held at McGregor, at which Col. D. B. Henderson "of Postville" makes his first speech in this county, and at which William B. Allison was also a speaker.

*Sanitary Society*—To complete the picture of the first half of 1863 it must be noted that the ladies' Sanitary Society was hard at work all over the county and that even the children were enlisted in the cause, the "Juvenile Mite Society" contributing regularly. The Cenotaph Society was busy under the management of Laura Stewart. Every paper carried lists of the dead and wounded among the Clayton county soldiers. Maimed and crippled soldiers were returning from the front. Col. Merrill was at home, having been wounded at Black Ridge. There were also inspiring stories of the bravery of Clayton county men. Col. Merrill reports that "Capt. Boardman of Company D won imperishable fame by a single act before the rebel works at Vicksburg. During the hot action attending our assault and repulse before the strong works of the enemy, the Twenty-first Iowa Regiment suffered severely. The color bearer who was a member of Capt. Boardman's company, fell, wounded, right before the rebel works, and with all the killed and wounded was left behind when our forces fell back. Notwithstanding, heretofore the enemy's sharp-shooters had unerringly picked off those who returned after the wounded, Capt. Boardman said he would take off his men himself, or fall beside them in the effort. Divesting himself of his coat, sword and belt, he went boldly upon the field and finding the color-bearer lifted him up and bore him from the field. Whether impressed by his audacity or not, the rebels reserved their fire, and others, inspired by the captain's glorious example, went forward, and the wounded were taken off and cared for." With such stories to inspire them there were many enlistments, but the demand for troops was greater than the supply and it seemed that the dreaded draft was inevitable. In June, the whole state was divided into recruiting districts. There were five districts in this county and C. C. Schader, Homer Butler, Charles W. Richardson, James Davis and Nicholas Ellis, were the officers of the draft in this county.

*War-tide Turns*—On July 4, 1863, the tide of battle turned. The great battle of Gettysburg was fought and won, and Lee's army was driven from northern soil; in the west, the splendid army under General Grant, had captured Vicksburg, and Pemberton had been forced to "unconditional surrender." From this time on, confidence replaced doubt, and the critics and peace advocates were largely silenced. These

victories, too, encouraged enlistments and there was a determination to avoid drafts if possible. A war meeting at Volga City was attended by a large delegation from Elkader, who went with flying colors and martial music. Twenty men from Boardman township volunteered for the Eighth Iowa Cavalry and prepared to go immediately after harvest. The Journal says, "The draft is certainly coming. The clothing for the drafted men has arrived at Dubuque." In August, the official notice of the draft was published and provost marshals were empowered to call for aid to enforce its provisions. The election of 1863, turned upon support of the administration and its war policy and resulted in a sweeping victory for the Union party, the majorities ranging from 300 to 400, and this was largely increased when the soldier vote was added. In Buena Vista the vote was 40 for the Union ticket, and 1 against.

It was found that a mistake had been made in figuring Iowa's quota, and that instead of being subject to draft it had already sent 6,000 soldiers in excess of its quota. At this time, however, the president issued a call for 300,000 additional volunteers and this made the draft inevitable. It was decided to draft by townships and all eligible men were enrolled and it was figured that 285 men must be drafted from the county. Buena Vista lacked but 3 men of having furnished its quota, Elk but 4, and Marion but 5, while from Mendon 61 were needed. With these figures before them, the people made strenuous efforts to avoid the draft by securing volunteers. A bounty of \$402 for reenlistment and \$302 for new recruits was offered by Joseph Eiboeck as recruiting officer for Boardman township. By February, 1864, Garnaville had filled its quota of 14 men, the citizens paying an added bounty of \$100 for each volunteer. At Farmersburg, also, the quota was filled by a bounty offer of \$150, to each volunteer. The Garnaville recruits marched to McGregor, crossed the river and entrained for Davenport. Lieut. Charles Williams and Sergeant Everall escorted them, but returned to continue recruiting. At this time came the news of another call for 500,000 men, for a period of 3 years or until the close of the war. And to this call N. B. Baker, Adjt. General of Iowa, responded: "To President Lincoln: I have just received your dispatch for a draft of 500,000 troops after March 10. There will be no draft in Iowa. You shall have your quota without it. 'We are coming, Father Abraham, with five hundred thousand more'. By order Governor Stone. N. B. Baker, Adjt. General."

March 10, 1864, was set as the day for the draft. Throughout the county strenuous efforts were made to secure volunteers. At McGregor the council offered an additional bounty of \$100 for Mendon township volunteers and by private subscription \$4,000 additional was raised. At that time 21 men were lacking. A great effort was made and by night, 19 men had enlisted and 5 more were enlisted later, making 3 more than required to escape draft. Marion, Giard and Monona had raised their quota of volunteers and it was reported that nearly every township in the county would escape drafting. Owing to the number of enlistments throughout the country, the draft was postponed, but the hope that it would not be used was dashed in April, when a call for 200,000 additional troops was made. In May the call

came for 100,000 volunteers for 100 days, in order to allow the veteran troops to be pushed to the front as it was felt that in this way the war could be rapidly ended. T. C. Young was recruiting officer at Elkader and Dr. J. A. Blanchard, Monroe Snedigar and Hiram Barnam were the first to enlist under the 100 day call. The news from Grant's army continued to be "glorious" and within a week 40 men had enlisted at Elkader.

*Election of 1864*—In 1864 the question of the presidential election was intimately connected with the war. Upon the nomination of Lincoln and Johnson by the Republicans the following from the McGregor Times may be said to fairly represent the attitude of the opposition. Col. Richardson says, "We shall endeavor to show that the American people have had enough of the dangerous assumption of power which has distinguished, for four years, nearly, the present imbecile administration." The Republicans, however, rejoiced in the renomination of Lincoln and were strong in his support.

*Sanitary Fair*—Throughout the year great preparations were made in Clayton county for the great "Sanitary Fair" which was held in Dubuque. Delegations of Dubuque people visited the county and appeals of all kinds were made, and festivals were held in many of the towns, the proceeds to be devoted to this affair. The result was that Clayton county was awarded first prize for having the largest exhibit of any county. Many from this county attended the Dubuque fair, at which Clayton occupied a booth with Winneshiek county. The Clayton exhibit was presided over by Mrs. P. M. Potter and Louise Keys of Elkader, and Mrs. H. P. George and Mrs. Robert Grant of McGregor. The proceeds of the fair were more than \$64,000 and were used for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers. Next to Dubuque, Clayton county made the largest cash contribution to the fair, the amount being \$1,919.80.

On July 27, 1864, the Adjt. General of the state issued an order requiring the enrolled militia of the state (which meant all eligible for military duty) to organize themselves into companies, not less than 40 or exceeding 100 men. Clayton county was required to organize 40 of such companies. The Elkader Journal speaks of this as the darkest hour of the war.

*Drafting*—Under the new apportionment, to complete the repeated calls for men, 306 volunteers were required from Clayton county. Of these, Jefferson had to furnish the most, 44, and Lodomillo, the fewest, 2. This double call stirred the county. To avoid the draft, clubs were formed, 10 men subscribing \$100 each, or 20 men subscribing \$50, to be paid a volunteer in case any of the club members were drafted.

A draft was ordered for September 5. At McGregor \$6,000 was raised and the following advertisement published: McGregor will pay for one year volunteers \$200, for three years \$300, in addition to the government bounty of \$100. Capt. W. A. Benton, enlisting officer. In compliance with the order to enroll in companies lists of names were printed of those who were required to meet and organize. T. M. Hopkins was captain of national guards at McGregor and John Van Staden was captain of the McGregor Rifles and at Elkader every able bodied man was called out to organize at Stone Hall.



In October, the draft was a reality in Clayton county. The first township heard from was Cass, where twelve names were drawn to fill the quota of six men required. On October 13, was published the list of men drawn. The deficit to be made up was as follows, Mallory 10, Jefferson 24, Millville 4, Volga 11, Read 4, Farmersburg, 4, Giard 9, Cox Creek, 14, Lodomillo 1, Elk 1, Sperry 4, Grand Meadow 10, Highland 10, Wagner 11, Cass 6, Monona 9, Clayton 2, Boardman 10, Marion 9. Twice the number of names were drawn as were required, in order to provide for exemptions. Of the draft, the Elkader Journal says, "The draft has taken place at last. For the first time in the history of this state, has been felt the always dreaded conscription. For the first time, the citizens of Iowa have realized that anxiety, that dread and that perplexity, incident for a draft for soldiers. But, it is over; the die is cast. Those whose names were (unfortunately for them, perhaps) drawn, are bound to obey the decision of that mysterious lottery box, unless exempted by some physical disability. We are not disposed to cheer over the result, for it has taken many a man within our knowledge whose family will necessarily be left on the charity of others, men who are poor and have not been able to make provisions for their families. With such men, we sympathize. The rich can procure substitutes, and secessionists will learn an important lesson, viz: that we have a government, and that that government must be sustained at all hazards, while engaged in the prosecution of this war. There was considerable feeling in town about the time the news came; many anxious faces, and many glad ones, afterward. In this township, the draft happened to hit a number of poor family men, and some who are totally incapable, from military disability, from serving as soldiers; so that it is very probable that another draft will have to be made to fill the quota."

*Supplementary Draft*—In November, 1864, a supplementary draft was made to complete the deficit. Forty-two men were required and eighty-four were drawn. Speaking editorially of the draft, the Journal states that it worked badly; "Numberless provost marshals, clerks and detectives, were kept busy day and night, at large salaries, to ferret out runaways and deserters and trouble was everywhere. Out of 500,000 called for, only 240,000 were raised." This editorial is called out by the issue of a new call for 300,000 men and the possibility of another draft. A war meeting was held at Elkader, December 28, to correct the enrollment list and devise means of filling the quota of the township. The meeting asked the supervisors to offer a county bounty. The supervisors acted favorably on this request and, in January, 1865, offered a bounty of \$400 for volunteers. The vote of the board was a tie, P. G. Baily, the chairman, casting the deciding vote. As a result of this Boardman, Farmersburg and Cox Creek townships were soon out of the draft, Cox Creek being away ahead. Jefferson township men conducted a draft of their own; they sent to Dubuque for a corrected enrollment and proceeded to draft in their township. Those drawn could take the \$400 bounty and go, or furnish a man. Boardman township gave an additional bounty of \$200 for each volunteer. Later, in January, 1865, came the joyful tidings that no draft would be necessary.

During the year it was reported by the Elkader Soldiers' Aid Society that \$69.75 had been contributed in cash or goods.

*Victory Is Heard*—As the year 1865 progressed it became more and more apparent that the confederacy was on the wane and each day brought news of Federal victories. In March, the capture of Charleston was reported and later came the news of Sheridan's victory, all of which led up to the "most glorious news! Richmond ours! The day of reckoning has come!" On April 12, the news was printed, "Lee and his whole army surrender, GLORY! GLORY!" The Elkader paper says, "The taking of Richmond was appropriately celebrated in this place last week. David Livingood fired guns in honor of the event. Joseph Ross had his flag flying to the breeze, and a general jubilee was had over the event."

*Death of Lincoln*—And then, as a thunderbolt from a clear sky, came the news of the death of Lincoln, the most terrible tragedy ever recorded in the history of the world. Governor Stone appointed April 27, as a day of humiliation and prayer, and it is not to be wondered at that, with grief, there was mingled a bitter resentment against the northern traitors who had hounded the martyred president during every step of that perilous journey by which he led his country through the pathway of war to a glorious peace. The day of mourning was generally observed throughout Clayton county. Services were held in all the churches, business was suspended and the busy farmers left their fields to bow their heads in honor of the beloved Lincoln. At Elkader there was a solemn parade to the church on the east side of the river and H. B. Carter presided at the meeting, Rev. J. R. Cameron led in prayer, B. T. Hunt delivered an eloquent address, Rev. Cameron spoke and the meeting closed with a benediction by Rev. H. Gifford. Captain Tipton was the marshal of the day and the guards fired a salute as they marched across the bridge.

*Homecoming*—The last chapter of the war history of Clayton county is written when the boys come home. Not all of them—nearly 200 were buried on southern battle fields, and to many a home the return of the soldiers gave but added poignancy to grief, as a fresh reminder of the vacant chair. Nevertheless, the homecoming was a time of joy and pride, and in every part of the county the veterans were greeted with honor and with cheers. Unfortunately the record of but one of these receptions has been preserved and that tells of the return of Capt. Boardman's company. The Journal tells the story in the following words: "On Wednesday morning, the news reached here that Boardman's company of the Twenty-first and Company E. of the Ninth Regiment, had arrived at McGregor, and would be at Elkader that day. The friends of the brave boys in this place set to work at once to give them a hearty reception. A dinner was proposed for them. The Stars and Stripes were raised on liberty pole; three or four teams—one of four horse—with fife and drum and banner flying, started out to meet them; but the boys did not come. It was only late in the night that they cheered our citizens with their presence. However, August 18 was set aside as the day when they should return the flag which they had carried through three years of war. That day was a big holiday in Elkader. The town was crowded with people from

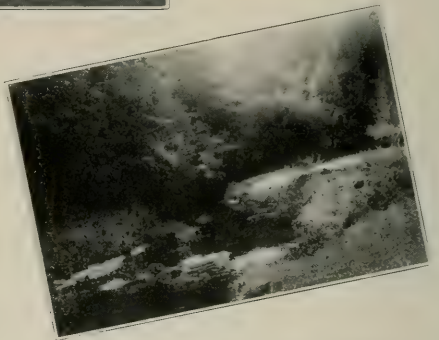
various parts of the county, but mostly from the southwestern part. It was a grand rallying day of the soldiers who had gone to the war from this and adjoining towns. The flag floated high in the breeze over the town, welcoming the brave boys who had fought so nobly under the Stars and Stripes. Three years ago on that day, Company D, of the Twenty-first Iowa Infantry Volunteers was presented with a flag by the ladies at Elkader, which the company then promised to return to them on the close of the war. This anniversary was therefore agreed upon by the company as the day when the flag should be returned to the ladies, and they took this opportunity of getting them up a splendid dinner, and in fact, such a festival as was due to these brave defenders of our country. All the returned soldiers of other companies who enlisted from this township were invited and most of them accepted the invitation. A procession was formed in front of the Stone Hall and marched to the square in front of James Partch's residence where, three years previously, the flag had been presented to Company D. A. C. Rogers was president of the day; B. T. Hunt, in behalf of the company, returned the flag which had been through eight battles, and had come forth in glory and victory. Miss Mattie Mahoney, in behalf of the ladies, in a beautiful address, responded. This was followed by the popular air, "John Brown," led by the choir. The soldiers and citizens marched back to the hall, where a general social was indulged in. Old friends there met again and rehearsed, in brief, their history during the eventful three years just passed. It was a treat of itself to see these brave boys take each other by the hand, and old friends gather around and welcome them with a cordiality that must have done them good. There was a dinner at which two long tables were covered with the best the county could afford. Then there were toasts; to Company D; to the soldiers of Clayton county; to the Union—one and inseparable; to the ladies, without whom the rebellion could not have been crushed; to Washington and Lincoln; to our children; to the president of the United States and to our starved and fallen soldiers—may the tramp of angelic hosts waken them to new life and glory."





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STREET SCENE, STRAWBERRY POINT

NEWBERRY SPRINGS, STRAWBERRY POINT



## CHAPTER VII

### WAR HISTORY—1861-1865—AT THE FRONT

THIRD INFANTRY—NINTH INFANTRY—12TH INFANTRY—21ST INFANTRY—27TH INFANTRY—FIRST CAVALRY—SIXTH CAVALRY—SEVENTH CAVALRY—EIGHTH CAVALRY—OTHER REGIMENTS—ROLL OF HONOR.

THE Third Infantry was the first of the Clayton county volunteers to be mustered into the service. It was sworn into the service at Keokuk in June, 1861. Nathan G. Williams was the colonel and the regiment was first used in the campaign to retain Missouri as a Union state. Its first battle was fought Sept. 17, 1861, at Blue Mills Landing and its behavior in the first engagement was very creditable. The company remained in Missouri guarding the North Missouri Railroad until 1862. March 17 of that year, it was made a part of General Grant's army in Tennessee, being assigned to the division commanded by General Hurlbut. It took part in the battle of Shiloh and was instrumental in preventing defeat on the first day, and aided in gaining the victory on the second day of battle. It was active in the campaign about Corinth and gave a good account of itself in the battle of Hatchie. It was with Grant at Vicksburg, in May and June, 1863, fought bravely and had many casualties and participated in the campaign against Johnson. It was in camp several months at Natchez, Mississippi, and here, more than 200 of the regiment reenlisted, as veteran volunteers, for three years. The remainder of the regiment was engaged in the campaign along the Red River in Arkansas. The veteran volunteers were with Sherman at Atlanta and their numbers were so depleted by stubborn fighting, that the remnant of the regiment was consolidated with the Second Iowa Infantry. William M. Stone, the first major in this regiment was afterwards Governor of Iowa. The names of the Clayton county members of this regiment were as follows:

*Third Infantry*—Sergeant Major, William M. Morris. Company C—Captain, Sidney B. Sladden; First Lieutenant, Douglas Leffingwill; Second Lieutenant, James Call; Sergeants, John Schroeder, Wm. Hooper, John K. Saunders, David B. Moe, William Gibby; Corporals, James C. Murry, William Bates, Benjamin Hunting, Hervey Dix, Allen Sparks, Alfred Mitchell; Musician, Joshua McGinnis; Wagoner, John Mack; Privates, James T. Bell, James W.

Call, George Call, Sylvanus Carmack, John C. Craig, William H. Dennison, Herman Drone, Dennis Dunivan, James Douding, Eron C. Dickinson, Chris Dowhower, Jesse Enders, Wm. M. Eckert, James Fulton, Hugh Fulton, Hiram Fordney, Andrew Foose, Joel Fairchild, John K. Goldtrip, John Henry, Wm. Hutchinson, Alvin Hart, Wm. C. Hazen, Simon Hays, Philip Hoffman, Sidney Irish, Ole Johnson, Wm. S. Jones, Charles James, Carl Kortman, John Leighty, John Lyons, Charles Meder, John B. W. Madden, Levi Minnick, James Morril, John Maddox, Chauncy D. McCoy, Charles Merrill, David F. Merrit, John Mack, Barney McLoon, Wm. E. Norris, Wm. H. Philips, Horace N. Peters, Myron D. Peters, Joseph Pleighnten, Joseph Richards, Thomas Rippey, Frederick Resa, Peter Reuter, Thomas Styles, Dewitt Scott, Henry Sparks, Lester Squires, Wm. C. Stevenson, John Stamm, Reuben Tubbs, Patrick Tracy, George H. Todd, Adam Thein, Daniel VanDyke, Jacob Verhei, Wm. Whipple, George Wentz, Frank Williams, Jacob Weisencee, Lorenzo Wakefield; Additional Enlistments, James Tappan, Veterans. Company C Privates, Artemus E. Ball, Wm. Ecker. Company F contained privates Addison, Bullock, Allen, Mullenix, Jr., Henry C. Pooler, Stephen D. Conley.

The following promotions were made: Company C—Douglas Laffingwell, First Lieutenant, to Captain; Carl Kortman, private to First Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant; Moe, Fourth Sergeant to First Sergeant and Second Lieutenant.

*The Ninth Infantry*—This regiment was organized by Hon. William Vandever, member of Congress from this district. Two companies of this regiment were organized in this county, one under Capt. Alvah Bevins and one under Elisha A. Crary. It was one of the first regiments to enlist and was mustered into the service September 25, 1861. It was in barracks at Benton, Missouri, for several months and then became a part of the army of the southwest, under Gen. S. R. Curtis. The regiment encamped at Rolla, Missouri, and at this place a number of Clayton county volunteers died from disease or exposure. Gen. Curtis was successful in driving Price, the confederate general, out of Missouri and into Arkansas. Col. Vandever was at this time in command of a brigade of which the Ninth Regiment was a part. A two days' battle was fought at Pea Ridge and the Ninth Regiment played an important part in winning the final victory. The Fourth and Ninth Iowa were given special mention by Gen. Curtis in the official report of the battle. In the first day of this fight the Ninth lost nearly one-fourth of its force and it had not a single field officer fit for duty. Capt. Bevins was among those killed at this battle.

Following the battle at Pea Ridge the regiment encamped at Helena, Arkansas, where it remained for five months. So gallant was the conduct of this regiment, and such its fame, that the ladies of Boston presented it with a stand of beautiful silk colors. These were presented to the regiment by Miss Phoebe Adams and, after carrying them victoriously on many a battle field, one of the flags was returned to the donors and the other presented to William Vandever, who had then risen to the rank of Brevet Major-General.

Leaving Helena the regiment was attached to Thayer's brigade of Steele's division, under Sherman and joined in the operations against

Vicksburg. It was engaged in a number of the minor engagements leading to the capture of Vicksburg and encamped at Young's Point, Louisiana, just across the river from Vicksburg. The regiment lost heavily by sickness and disease at this camp which was swampy and badly located. Colonel Vandever having been promoted a brigadier general, Captain David Carscaddon succeeded him. In April, 1863, the regiment was with Steele in his expedition into central Mississippi to prevent the relief of Vicksburg. It then took part in the assault upon Vicksburg; its total loss in killed and wounded in this campaign being 121. Following the fall of Vicksburg, the regiment rested until September, when it was sent to Tennessee, where, under General Hooker, it took part in the battle of Lookout Mountain. In 1864 nearly 300 of this regiment re-enlisted and it became a veteran regiment and in May it was sent to the south and marched with Sherman "from Atlanta to the sea," taking part in all the famous battles of that campaign in Georgia and marching with the great commander through the Carolinas and taking part in the grand review at Washington. It was mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, July 18, 1865, and it was disbanded at Clinton, Iowa. This regiment took part in twenty-five battles, traversed every state of the Confederacy, except Florida and Texas; marched 4000 miles and traveled 6000 miles by rail or water.

*Ninth Infantry*—Company E—Captain Alva Bevins, First Lieutenant Dewitt C. Baker, Second Lieutenant Andrew F. Hofer, Sergeants Elisha A. Crary, Robert L. Freeman, James Flannagan; Corporals Joseph Lampert, Lyman Sargent, William McCabe, Joseph Garretson, William Bishop, William Doty, Wagoner Laverne W. Burdick, Privates Thompson Bishop, Joseph Bradshaw, Almon C. Ballou, Louis Bateman, James M. Chapman, Edgar Crane, Warren S. Forbes, John S. Garretson, George Greene, Perry Hall, Louis H. Hathway, Heskiah R. Hugh, Levi Hendricks, Christian Kaiser, John Morrison, Noyes Rossman, John Reichart, Alexander Rice, Timothy Seeber, Fred Smith, Henry Stevens, Cyrus L. Troman, Josiah L. Wragg, Charles Weseman, Frank Weber; additional enlistments, William Bartholomew, A. J. Bartholomew, George Carpenter, Allen McLavy, John L. Howard, Joseph Eiboeck, Clement Dorland, John C. Bachtell, Levi M. Corbin, Thomas J. Dragg, Albert Greely, Charles Allen, John M. Barnhouse, James N. Barnhouse, Francis N. Hughes. Veterans Company E, Captain Elisha A. Crary, Second Lieutenant Josiah L. Wragg, Sergeants Almon C. Ballou, Joseph Garretson, John H. Garretson, Privates A. J. Bartholomew, Joseph Ewine, Thomas Fischer, Eleazer Fuller, Thomas Gannon, Darvin Hill, Wilder B. King, William Long, Fred Meisner, Henry Putnam, William McCabe, John Perry, Gottlieb Menke, Wilbert Partch, Albert D. Strunk, Timothy Shaffer, James Wilson, Joseph M. Wright. Company F, Privates Jeremiah Merry, Grimes Snow. Company G, Privates Thomas Dempsey, John Dumton. Company I, Sergeant John S. Mather. In Company G was Private James M. Gibson; in Company I was John Gemmill, private; and unassigned were Privates David C. Fuller, Edwin Morgan, William Oxley, Martin Alexander, John H. Bloodsworth, John Burns and David Lightly. The following promotions were made in the Ninth: Dewitt C. Baker, first lieutenant to captain; Elisha A. Crary,



second sergeant to second lieutenant and captain; John H. Garretson, private to second corporal and first lieutenant; Josiah L. Wragg, private to fifth corporal and second lieutenant.

*Twelfth Infantry*—Clayton county contributed about forty men to this regiment which was one of the longest in service during the war. It was mustered in at Dubuque in the fall of 1861 and proceeded to Benton barracks where it remained until the spring of 1862. In February it was a part of General Grant's command at Fort Donelson. It played a conspicuous part in the battle of Shiloh and was one of the regiments which protected the army from complete annihilation. On the memorable first day of that battle, they sacrificed themselves with great heroism, holding the Confederates at bay until the arrival of Buell. At the close of the day's fighting they were compelled to surrender and were held for eight months as prisoners of war. That portion of the regiment, about 150 men, not in the battle of Shiloh, served during this time in what was known as the Union Brigade. The men of this regiment were exchanged, in April, 1863, and the regiment was at once reorganized. It took part in the Vicksburg campaign and in January, 1864, it was mustered in as a veteran regiment, a larger proportion re-enlisting than from any other regiment from the state. It was engaged in the campaign in Mississippi, fighting in the battle of Tupelo. It then took part in the Arkansas campaign and was in the campaign against Price in Missouri. Later it took part in the operations against Mobile and was not mustered out of service until the spring of 1866.

*Twelfth Infantry*—Company F, Sergeant Rodney W. Tirril, Corporal Parsons F. Haskell, Privates Alonzo E. Brown, Joseph E. Eldridge, Thomas Hinkle, Marshall Lazelle, Orrin Scoville, George W. Wooldridge. Company H, Sergeant Valmah V. Price, Corporals Bernard D. Cambell, James F. Mosley, Privates John W. Benedict, Sylvester Barber, Richard W. Kolver, Jacob V. Crist, Williard Clausen, George S. Douglas, James S. Flenniken, John B. Flenniken, George W. Felter, Abel C. Gilmore, John C. Newman, Alexander Prescho, William Roice, Charles W. Smith, Thomas Smith, Joseph A. Light, Edward Winch, William Walker. Company I, Sergeant Ewen B. Campbell, Corporal Patrick McManus, Privates James Brown, Robert P. Brown, Samuel Gordon, Will H. Markham. In Company C was Sergeant George W. Cook, afterward captain; Company D, Private James D. Brown; Company G, Privates Jeremiah Maloney and Aminon Oleson.

*Twenty-first Infantry*—The most distinctively Clayton county regiment of the war was the Twenty-first Infantry. Samuel Merrill, of McGregor, was the colonel of this regiment and aided largely in its enlistment. Companies B, D and G, Captains William D. Croke, Elisha Boardman and W. A. Benton, were almost entirely made up of men from this county. All of this regiment came from northeastern Iowa. It was organized at Dubuque in August, 1862, and went into camp at Rolla, Missouri, in September. There was much delay in securing proper equipment and it was not until 1863 that it saw its first battle. This was at Hartville where, under Colonel Merrill, it was engaged against five times its number, under Generals Marmaduke and

McDonald. This was a drawn battle, the Union force being obliged to retire when its ammunition was exhausted. For its gallantry this regiment was highly commended by General Warren. It was in this campaign that Colonel Merrill was wounded at the battle of Black River Bridge. He returned to McGregor where he remained a few months when, upon recovery from his wounds, he returned to his regiment. The Twenty-first did hard work in southwest Missouri and fought its way across Arkansas into Louisiana and Mississippi. It received honorable mention for its conduct at the battle of Fort Gibson and then took its place with Grant's army before Vicksburg. It was with Johnson in the campaign following the fall of Vicksburg and was then transferred to Texas where it remained for six months. It was conspicuous for its bravery in the operations leading to the capture of Mobile and was not mustered out until 1866.

*Twenty-first Infantry*—Colonel Samuel Merrill, Sergeant William A. Hyde, Chaplain Samuel P. Sloan. Company B, Captain William S. Crooke, First Lieutenant Charles P. Heath, Sergeants Barney W. Phelps, William W. Lyons, Norman W. Scofield, David Drummond, Edwin M. Clark, Corporals Daniel G. Eldridge, Williard Adams, Perry C. Dewey, James J. Scoville, Jabez S. Rogers, David J. Maxson, Henry Chiles, Musician Seinore Chipman, Wagoner George A. Smith, Privates William H. Appleton, William H. Alloway, James Adams, E. Warren Bramen, William C. Boynton, Mason D. Bettys, John George Baade, James Bethard, Frederick Barnes, George Crook, Henry C. Carrier, John J. Carpenter, W. H. Casey, Alonzo Cole, John S. Crop, James R. Chiles, George S. Crock, Milo Dalton, George T. Dunn, Lewis Eno, James Farrand, Orion S. Follion, John S. Farrand, George Goodwin, Theophilus Gerard, John Grutchek, Corydon Hewett, William S. Hall, Herbert T. Hallack, John S. Hilton, Charles B. Hinds, Alfred E. Hall, William T. Hayes, Albert Jones, Myron E. Knight, Othmar Kepler, Hiram Libby, George W. Loomis, John H. Mathers, John W. Moore, Jerry Malony, John E. Martin, Christian S. Maxson, John Meyer, Alvian Merrian, Dewitt Noble, Benjamin F. Odell, Calvin Penny, Will Perkins, John Presho, Robert J. Poole, George A. Purdy, Charles Preschl, Elisha R. Roberts, Will Robbins, Charles H. Robbins, James M. Rice, John Rogman, Chris C. Scoville, Gleason Stringham, David W. Schuck, Abram Tredwell, Horace P. Talcott, Edson D. Townsend, Jehiel G. Warrner, Darwin Whipple, David L. Watkins, David B. Wing, Carrol E. Whitman, Richard Wright, Charles Reeves. Additional enlistment, Andrew Hughes. Company D, Captain Elisha Boardman, First Lieutenant Will Grannis, Second Lieutenant Homer Butler, Sergeants Gilbert Cooley, William W. Powell, James W. Harding, Solomon Bush, David Jewell, Corporals Samuel W. Moore, R. M. Cunningham, Joseph A. Hewlet, Eber Golden, Truman W. Hazelton, Charles H. Paize, Lewellen A. Mahoney, Ebenezer Still, Musicians J. K. P. Thompson, F. M. Thompson, Wagoner John W. Lowe, Privates—Rule Aldrich, Samuel Abernethy, Ottis Allen, William J. Abernathy, John Burdine, William S. Brown, William Berg, Harrison Bishop, Joseph W. Baker, Ira Coal, Ira Chapman, George W. Chapman, Aaron Connor, James N. Curtis, Thomas Cooper, Gunder Engebertson, Horace Ferrington, Alonzo W. Feller, William



H. Fobes, William Garretson, Duane D. Grannis, Byron M. Grannis, Thomas Greyson, William Gaylord, George Goodnough, Jacob Gunther, Hiram S. Hysham, William Hood, Patrick Hanbley, Thomas Hays, Jacob Haindel, John T. Hopp, Asa Haskins, Ripley A. Hale, John Jeelings, S. H. Knickerbocker, Harvey H. King, Charles Kimberg, Thomas J. Larkin, George H. Lawrence, Robert Leitch, Will Monlux, Robert McKitrick, Hugh McCafferty, Augustus J. Paarch, William Parker, John C. Pool, Ewick Paulsen, C. W. Richardson, David H. Robison, Emerson Reed, August A. Renwich, Jehiel Rowley, John J. Robinson, Thomas J. Rice, Enos Russell, Francis B. Ruff, Asa Smith, Erasmus D. Stockton, Edward B. Snedigar, Martin Stearns, Joseph Stahl, John W. Stahl, Jacob Stemgrinson, Mortimer Strunk, William H. Southworth, James H. Stockwell, Edward Smith, Avery R. Thurber, George Thinkham, Justin W. Thurber, Martin V. Truman, John M. White, Jacob White, John Whalon, George Wiltse. Additional enlistments, Abel Allen, Joseph N. Allen, William A. Hamer, Andrew Hesner, Sears T. Richard, John Valekat, Bradford T. Weeks, John A. Woldridge. Company G, Captain Willard A. Benton, First Lieutenant John Dolson, Second Lieutenant John S. Craig, Sergeants Timothy M. Hopkins, William H. Spangler, Archibald H. Stewart, Tylor D. Fetheroy, William H. Farrin, Corporals Jacob N. Sharp, Frederick Richardson, Thomas Dolson, James P. Witherow, Francis Palmer, Linus P. McKinnie, Edward J. Patterson, William M. Warn, Musicians George H. Moore, H. C. Spangler, Wagoner Philander N. Drake, Privates John Ano, Hermann Allart, Patrick Burnes, Jesse Best, William C. Barber, Thomas Busby, Martin Bigler, James W. Brown, John Birch, John V. Carpenter, Joseph Chantro, Smith Churnos, John B. Comrant, Cyrus Craige, Thomas W. Daniels, George Dean, Dan Donahue, William C. Dunn, John M. Field, Jonathan Foster, William Ferris, William Floners, Herman Graybill, O. F. Gatts, William H. Griffith, John Guiselman, Edward Goldsmith, Gilbert Gulbranson, Francis Henderson, Peter Holmes, Obed Harrison, Adam Hart, Cyrus M. Henderson, John J. Jones, William Johns, James Johnson, Thomas Jones, Chris V. Kelog, John Kain, Andrew Lawrence, Henry T. Lewis, Maple Moody, Edward Murray, Marius Matturgley, Peter McAntire, C. S. Nelson, Robert M. Pettis, William W. Parker, Robert Pitt, George W. Penhollow, David Ryner, Nelson K. Reynolds, James Ryner, Isaac Ray, William S. Reed, Oliver C. Schull, Henry Shaw, William W. Smith, Joseph Tucker, Andrew Wick, Samuel Witherow, L. P. Walker, Edward T. Warn, William Welch, Lewis J. Wolfe, Andrew J. Wolfe, Charles W. Wilson, George J. White. Subsequent enlistments, John Beavers, George Robisch, Francis Washburne, Ransom S. Wheeler; unassigned, Andrew Haner, Henry Stringham, Robert Valekat,

In Company F was Private Andrew Hannah, and in Company H, Privates Henry Cassell, William Cassell and Thomas C. Dodd, William D. Crooke, captain Company B, was promoted major; George Crooke, private to adjutant; W. W. Lyons, sergeant to captain Company B; Abram Tredwell, private to first lieutenant Company B; David Drummond, sergeant to second lieutenant Company B; Gilbert Cooley, sergeant to second lieutenant Company D; John S. Craig,



second lieutenant to captain Company G; Frederick Richardson, corporal to second lieutenant.

*Twenty-seventh Infantry*—The Twenty-seventh Infantry contained two full companies, and a part of another, from this county. D. E. Meyer was the captain of Company B, being succeeded by Silas Garber. This company was largely recruited from the vicinity of Guttenberg. Thomas G. Drips was the captain of Company G and he was a constant contributor to the McGregor Times throughout the war. The Twenty-seventh had the most varied experience of any Iowa regiment. It was first sent to Minnesota under Major General Pope to suppress an Indian outbreak. It saw no active service here as the Indians were defeated before its arrival. The regiment was transferred to Cairo, Illinois, and was then taken to Memphis where it was a part of General Sherman's army. It served with this great general as part of the outer guard protecting Grant at Vicksburg. It was engaged in many skirmishes and did valuable duty in guarding lines of communication and preventing rebel attacks. During this period its headquarters were at Jackson and at Moscow, Mississippi.

It is related of this regiment that it was saved from destruction by two women. Guerillas had destroyed a railroad bridge across which the regiment was to be transported. The flames had been extinguished and the skeleton of the bridge left standing so that the train might be wrecked. These women saw the danger and, alone and unprotected, walked ten miles along the track and with waving lanterns signalled the engineer and the train was stopped in time.

In August, 1863, the regiment took part in the expedition against Little Rock and then went into quarters at Memphis. In 1864 the regiment was transported to Vicksburg and was with Sherman in the raid on Meridian. It was next with General Banks in the unfortunate Red River expedition and then campaigned both in Mississippi and Missouri. Following this, it encamped in Tennessee where, under General Smith, it was part of the army operating against Hood. It achieved distinction at the battle of Nashville and Colonel Gilbert was promoted brigadier general for his gallantry in this battle. The regiment joined in the pursuit of Hood and afterwards went into camp at Eastport. February 9, 1865, it was transported down the river to New Orleans, went into camp at Chalmette and was then shipped to Dauphin Island, Alabama, where it took part in the capture of Mobile. The regiment was mustered out in Clinton, Iowa, in August, 1865, having fought many times and traveled more than 12,000 miles.

*Twenty-seventh Infantry*—Company D, Captain Dan L. E. Meyer, First Lieutenant Silas Garber, Second Lieutenant John Anderegg, Sergeants Alexander Bliedung, Charles Siedow, Charles Schecker, Charles Eringman, George L. Dang, Corporals Anthony Boechtcl, Daniel Fritz, Joseph Garber, Frederick Bergmann, John Boos, John Hirschbueler, John F. Benjegerdes, Edward Prior, Musicians Hugo Atfeld, Edward Rechow, Wagoner Samuel Sargeant, Privates Hugh Achord, Michael Adrian, John Ahrend, David Bagbe, Thomas H. Bagbe, Cornelius W. Baxter, George Beck, Frank Backman, John Beilharz, Michael Berst, Jabez D. Beyer, John P. Byers, Heinrich Bremer, Diedrich Buchholz, Wilhelm Buck, John Boar, Herman H.

Droge, Frederick Duwe, Joseph Ess, John Fitch, James G. Fleming, Frederick Franke, Nicholas Friedlein, Joseph S. Garber, Hezekiah Garber, Martin Garber, Frederick Gerbsch, Nicholas Hauch, Henry Heiller, William Heiller, William Heine, Charles Hennrich, John N. Heinz, John D. Heyer, Charles Hocke, August Kottke, Henry Kuhlmann, Harvey Lewis, Benjamin C. Lockridge, Daniel P. Lockridge, John Lemcke, August Mouch, Theodore Moeller, Herman H. Mollering, Irving McDonald, Franklin McMonigal, Anton Neubauer, John H. Neiter, Christopher Oelkers, Francis A. Otis, George Rheinhardt, William Rizer, Frederick Roggman, Frederick Saugling, Ferdinand Sauter, Frederick Sass, John Schimek, Gerhardt Schalke, Henry Schalke, Henry Schorg, Charles Schaefer, Frederick Schulmann, Christopher Seeman, Ludwig Stoeffler, John Tavis, Frank Thayer, Mitchell Thein, Peter Thein, C. Louis Vonberg, Henry Waterman, Peter Wendel, Frederick Winch, John Wolf. Additional enlistments, Hugh W. Andrews, Hiram L. Cooper, Thomas Gordon, John Hanne-man, William Montgomery, John S. Seimer, John Scharwath, Charles Rademacher, Martin Newman, August Parno, Robert F. Smith, Aaron Sanson, Perry C. Sprague, Gottfried Seeman, Peter Thein. Company E, Captain Thomas G. Drips, First Lieutenant T. Allen Olmstead, Second Lieutenant Samuel Benjamin, Sergeants Garner C. Williams, John Everall, Phillip Schaller, James M. Fonda, William M. Allyn, Corporals James C. Port, Levi R. King, Freedom Jones, William H. Neelings, James L. Massey, John Brooker, James B. King, Lawrence C. Failey, Musician Ralph L. Knight, Wagoner Harry H. Hudson, Privates Enoch Allen, Silas W. Angier, Richard P. Arble, Hiram Ashline, Edward Ashline, William Ashline, George Ashline, Daniel Bartke, George Beardsley, Henry Bender, John G. Benson, Patrick Breene, Joseph F. Bretz, Truman N. Brouson, George Brooker, Augustus Baurette, Warran Cassaday, Peter S. Cooley, William S. Cosler, Edmon F. Crain, Charles Dames, Jr., George Filmore, Adam Fisher, Francis M. Ganow, William H. Green, Patton Hamilton, Morrison M. Hancock, Isaac S. Hanna, Oley Herman, David S. Hill, Henry Hines, Dexter H. Hutchins, Webster Jones, Charles D. Kicherer, J. Milton Leach, Jacob Leamen, John W. Lee, Runyon C. Lewis, Frederick Linger, Samuel K. Mackey, John H. Mann, William J. McAlpine, James McGrady, Albert Mead, John Miller, Silas A. Miller, James Morton, Daniel Neelings, James N. Neeling, Augustus L. Payne, Daniel U. Polley, James Ramkin, Charles H. Read, Frederick W. Reinke, Andrew Ryder, James M. Reiley, Joel Roe, Robert H. Scarf, Edgar J. Selleg, Jacob Smith, Jonathan Smith, George Storck, Charles Stratton, Charles Schultz, Arza H. Tyler, Samuel M. VanZandt, Hiram H. Wallace, Hiram Wilcock, George M. Wilkie, Charles Wilkins, Henry N. Zachariah. Additional enlistments, James Baldwin, Joseph H. Bell, Peter Bush, Alonzo U. Bradley, John Burke, Christian Behens, William H. Dickman, Nichol W. Ellis, Daniel E. Fox, Harvey J. Green, John S. Goslin, Nelson H. Goslin, James A. Henderson, John W. Hudson, George W. Hudson, William Kohn, John D. Meyer, Henry Mohlstedt, Cornelius Morgan, John A. Schroeder, Charles A. Shaw, Lorenzo W. Stevenson, Joseph K. Shaw, Paul Trumballe, William Keyler, Henry Wallerser. Company I, Second Lieutenant John E.



Peck, Sergeant Peter G. McNamara, Corporal Timothy O'Brien, Musician Francis S. Barrs, Privates Thomas Burns, William Shalk, James Daley, Daniel M. Fay, James Fitzpatrick, Leonard Haskill, Michael Hinchey, Patrick Hailey, James Kelley, Lorin Mason, Paul Margrave, Thomas Redden, James Smith, Gilbert Stickney, Lafayette W. Scott, George C. Wood. Additional enlistments, Frank Behnke, Charles Knodt, Henry L. Lewis, Lewis Lewis, Peter Lewis, Daniel McCallun, Andrew O'Neil, Lorenzo Poesch, John Reardan, John Schmidt, John Schoepf.

Company A contained Private Elijah Perry; Company B, Corporal Lucius Dickens and Privates James Dodson, Henry P. Harding and J. W. Dickens; Company C, Private George W. Proctor; Company G, John Crane, Briggs Mosgrove and Joseph Tinker; Company K, Private Isiah Williams. Silas Garber, first lieutenant, Company D, was promoted captain; Alex. Bliedug, sergeant to first lieutenant; Charles Sidon, sergeant to second lieutenant; T. Allen Olmstead, first lieutenant to captain, Company E; Garner C. Williams, sergeant to first lieutenant; Dexter H. Hutchins, private to second lieutenant; John E. Peck, second lieutenant to first lieutenant, Company I.

*First Cavalry*—Company K of the First Cavalry was organized by Robert L. Freeman who became its captain. The company was first known as the "McGregor Rangers," and it was the first cavalry troop organized in Iowa. For some reason there was delay in its acceptance into the service but it was finally admitted, as Company K. This regiment served entirely on the west bank of the Mississippi, its colonel was Fitz Henry Warren. In October, 1861, it went into camp at Benton barracks, Missouri, 1200 strong. The first and second battalions operated that winter in Missouri engaged in warfare with guerilla bands. The third battalion remained at Benton. In March, 1862, the entire regiment concentrated at Sedalia, Missouri, and was employed in outpost duty. In December it made a successful dash upon Confederate stores located at Van Buren, Arkansas, and seized supplies valued at \$300,000.

In April, 1863, it participated in the successful campaign against Pilot Knob and in the same year it was with General Steele in the expedition again Little Rock. It was reorganized as a veteran regiment in April, 1864, and was employed in scouting service and was with General Rosecrans in the campaign which resulted in freeing Missouri from the rebels. It served in the vicinity of Little Rock until the close of the war and was then employed for several months on guard duty in Louisiana and in Texas. This regiment was longest in the service of any Iowa cavalry regiment.

*First Cavalry*—Company K, Captain Robert L. Freeman, Hiram H. Sowles, William H. Muzzy, James H. Lyons, Charles F. Keeler, George E. Dayton, Charles Dubois, Corporals Seth Martin, Oscar Moore, William Tinkham, Solomon Goodrich, Buglers Lewis Keen, Joseph Stone, Charles Carrier, Wagoner John Isreal, Privates Charles Atwood, Loyal Ballou, William Bowers, Andris Brant, James Bolton, John Border, Christian F. Beyer, Edward G. Briker, Oscar Crumb, Peter Chambers, John B. Christ, Henry Clark, Erdik S. Eastman, Albert A. Fairchild, John Gaytas, Archibald Green, Edward Harman,



William Q. Howorth, John L. Howorth, Jason W. Kinsley, William H. Kelley, Albert R. Lyon, James R. McGeorge, Archibald McArthur, Erastus Morgan, Vincent Orcutt, Daniel C. Oswauld, Oscar Powers, Charles T. Prescott, John L. Paxson, John S. Post, Samuel Stephenson, Samuel Stillons, William H. Saucer, John W. Sylvester, Edward Sliter, Joal Smith, John Shelly, James Shipper, William H. Walker, James Whitford, Samuel Wright. Additional enlistments, Orson Trowbridge, Palmer Dobson, Benjamin A. Fay, Thomas Hartin, Henry M. Jones, Mitchell Casey, George W. D. Eastman, Elijah G. Preston, Jason W. Hinsley, Nicholas Swingle, Even W. Williams, George Oathout, Orion A. Phillips, George W. Smith, Joseph Warner, Alfred Wells, Henry P. Brooks, Samuel J. Fry, Edward Reynolds, John Peters, Hans E. Schoolrud. Unassigned, Charles G. P. Meyers, Andrew W. Benn, Henry C. Crandall, Marion Elsworth, Daniel M. Fay, John B. Hawkins, John D. Ingar, John Kellar, William H. Massay, Edward Noa, Victor Burnham, Charles Cox, Christian Cook, Robert Efinger, Samuel Hotinger, Henry Hotinger, Samuel Johnson, Isaac Martin, Joseph McCorkel, James Ousley, Michael O'Riley, Erasmus D. Ryan, Luther N. Smith, Don Tremain, Martin Varley, Nicholas Witzel, William Ward, Nelson Roberts, Lewis Richstinn, David O. Shoemaker, Silas C. Truman, John O. Walker, John C. West. Veterans, Company F, Private Warren H. Clark; Company K, Captain Robert L. Freeman, Second Lieutenant Charles F. Keeler, Sergeant Charles Dubois, Corporal Benjamin A. Fay, Privates William P. Bowers, John Border, John Gaytas, John L. Howorth, Thomas Hartin, Henry M. Jones, John G. Kidder, George Lewis, Erastus Morgan, Oscar Moore, George Oathout, Orin A. Phillips, Edward Reynolds, Benjamin Rathburne, Edward Sliter, George W. Smith, John N. Truman, Harrison Wolf, William H. Walker, Samuel Wright, W. H. H. Gifford.

In Company L were Sergeant Henry B. Quick, Corporal Christian F. Beyer, and Privates Stephen P. Carnahan, George Hellman, William Martin, Zebulon Morris, Nicholas Morris, John L. Quick, Clark I. Sherwood, Nat W. Weliver and John W. Sylvester. In Company K promotions were made as follows: William H. Muzzy, quartermaster sergeant to quartermaster of Third Battalion; John L. Paxson, private to quartermaster sergeant; Charles DuBois, fifth sergeant to second lieutenant; George E. Dayton, fourth sergeant to first lieutenant, Company C, Sixth Cavalry.

*Sixth Cavalry*—The Sixth Cavalry was organized during the dark days of 1862. Company L, under Captain Aaron Ames, was largely recruited from this county. Believing that the United States was fully occupied, Indian tribes in the west became hostile and it was found necessary to send troops to quell them. It was this duty which fell largely upon the Sixth Cavalry. Organizing at Davenport, the regiment was sent to Sioux City and from thence pushed out onto the plains. At White Stone Hills a decisive battle was fought in which a large number of Indians were killed or wounded. The regiment built Fort Sully, 300 miles northwest of Sioux City and remained there, until the summer of 1864, when there was another Indian uprising. The regiment was sent against these Indians in a campaign along

the upper Missouri. The following winter was spent in garrison duty at western forts and the regiment was mustered out October 17, 1865, at Sioux City.

*Sixth Cavalry*—Company L, Captain Aaron S. Ames, First Lieutenant Hiram A. Park, Quartermaster Sergeant Alexander R. Fuller, Sergeants S. Harson Woodward, John C. Wailing, John Parin, Thomas J. Scott, Benjamin Woolstencroft, Corporals Joseph H. Drips, Milo D. Watkins, John H. Burhans, Alfred Murphy, Daniel H. Sawyer, Edward Morse, Samuel B. Robinson, William Hall, Teamsters Boyl Martin, William Everton, Farriers William H. Wilder, David Flinn, Saddler James McGuire, Wagoner George L. Moore, Privates Lewis Arnold, Joseph Bayles, Henry Barnhardt, Ruben C. Baker, Henry Brandus, August Brandus, George Bennet, Orange S. Bosgue, Lewis Buckholtz, Henry T. Clark, Robert Carty, Rinaldo Craig, Chauncey S. Cook, Fayette W. Caldell, George Derendurfer, Jephtha Duling, Charles W. Deming, Austin F. Depre, Richard Dodson, William Dowe, Chauncy J. Foster, Prescott E. Grant, George Grannis, Bertsell Gothum, Anton Glazer, James Hunt, Dewitt C. Hallock, Thomas Halley, Francis M. Harrold, Albert Howland, James Hazlitt, Casper Hoffman, Jacob A. Lighty, Charles Lamphere, Joseph H. Lehmculc, Ruben Mickle, Henry Mosley, Peter McNamara, John Pettit, Ira G. Preston, Hugh Ryan, James F. Riley, Caleb K. Smith, Horace D. Stickney, Theodore Sherman, Julius Schontag, Milton Spencer, Fred Schoneman, Earstus Tompkins, Charles Tahlstrom, Thomas B. Walker, B. A. Woolstoncroft, Carl Wehler, John Widoo. Additional enlistments, W. W. Brisbee, Robert Carty, James Havens, William McCanna, Thomas D. Wynee, William J. Kirk, Timothy Sullivan, James Centell, Newton F. Phillips, George W. Doty, Thomas Kelley, John Hill, Edward French, Dennis Leary, James Workman, Robert J. Presho, John S. Woolstencraft, Ed T. Cross, Dennis Leary, Joel G. Frink, William F. Murphy.

In Company A was Corporal Alex T. Gilmore; Company C, First Lieutenant George E. Dayton, Corporal Orrin Freeman and Privates Avery Clark, William W. Freeman and Rufus L. King; Company G, Sergeant John W. Wright and Privates Charles H. Franks, David R. Foster, George M. Johnson and Henry Kaufman; Company H, Privates John Frazer, George Hungerman, Joseph Keeber, Joseph Kaiser, Frederick Mueller, Conrad Peiker, Henry Schander and William Schutters; Company I, Corporal Samuel Randall and Private James A. Hayes. Joseph Baylis was promoted from private, Company L, to veterinary surgeon of the regiment; Alex R. Fuller was promoted from quartermaster sergeant Company L, to second lieutenant.

*Seventh Cavalry*—This regiment was organized from companies which had been first assigned to other organizations. It contained about forty volunteers from Clayton county. It was another regiment of Indian fighters and performed important service in garrison duty and in protecting wagon trains of emigrants. Its fiercest battle was fought at Julesburg, Colorado. The regiment was mustered out in 1866.

*Seventh Cavalry*—Company F, Second Lieutenant Michael Towers, Corporals Edward McMahon, Homer T. Foster, Privates

William Boyce, George J. Benett, Charles Contell, William H. Grey, Milo Lacy, J. W. Rounds. Company K, Privates LeRoy Butts, John H. Carr, Henry Dimond, Herman Kuehlman, Swart Larson, Harrison Micklee, John Mackle, James McNamara, Otis Trusdell, Adam Vallence. Company L, William Anderson, John H. Bishop, Oscar Collins, Henry Call, John Denning, Francis H. Dayton, Samuel A. Gregg, August Gropp, Charles D. Hubbard, George C. Jones, Jacob Meires, Alexander Moody, William Mickley, John F. Schoenmacker, John P. Thompson, John Valentine, Milton Weaver. Unassigned, Orvil N. Buck, John Juty, Walter Telcot. John F. Schoemaker was promoted from private to second lieutenant, Company L.

*Eighth Cavalry*—Twenty-six men from Clayton county were on the roll of the Eighth Cavalry, under Colonel George B. Door. The regiment was mustered in September 30, 1863, and was assigned to duty in Tennessee. Following the usual army tactics, this regiment was employed chiefly in skirmishing and in holding districts taken from the enemy. This was dangerous work and involved almost continuous fighting. In July 1864, nearly the entire regiment was captured. It was soon exchanged, however, and took part in the campaigns at Nashville and at Atlanta and was in the Croxton raid. Avalo J. Price was a major in this regiment and died at the front. The regiment was mustered out in June 1865.

*Eighth Cavalry*—Major Avalo J. Price. Company I, Second Lieutenant Andrew F. Tipton, Sergeants Washburne A. Stow, Richard W. Brown, Corporals William C. Waggoner, Saveron W. Burdick, Privates James A. Adams, George W. Allman, Jacob Bitters, Bersee J. Best, William W. Chiles, Will Haiden, Daniel W. Johnson, Daniel Mitchell, Perry Millholen, John Monlux, George Monlux, James W. Parman, Alexander Rice, Henry Ray, William Satterlee, Charles Schultz, Samuel P. Shaw, George Watrous, George Williams, John Welsh.

Company B contained Privates Henry Dow and Michael Shindler; Company G, Sergeant Lyman Newton and Farrier Peter Kobel; Company unknown, William C. Fuller.

#### OTHER REGIMENTS

*Second Infantry*—Company B, Private John Burnes. Afterward John B. Craig was commissioned as first lieutenant, Company F, and William F. Hooper as second lieutenant, Company I.

*Second Veteran Infantry*—Company A, Privates Joseph L. B. Bool, James McAfferty, Richard Stockdale and John Schragge; Company F, First Lieutenant John B. Craig, Sergeant John Leighty, Corporals David F. Merritt, William C. Hazen, Jesse Enders, Simon V. Davis, and Privates Stephen D. Connolly, Joseph W. Call, Sylvanus Carmack, Harmon Drone, Jacob E. Dowding, Charles C. Goodale, William H. Hutchinson, Sidney W. Irish, Charles H. James, Thomas McLoon, George W. Madden, Mathies Schleier, Henry A. Scott, Adam F. Their, Daniel J. Van Dycke and Jacob Verhei; Company G, Private James Shadle; Company I, Second Lieutenant William F. Hooper.



*Fifth Infantry*—Company K, Private John A. King.

*Sixth Infantry*—Company C, Private George H. Ingram.

*Thirteenth Infantry*—Company A, Private John P. Hitsman; unassigned, Henry Fisher, William Hughs, William Hollister, Patrick Karney, Andrew Luney, Conrad Muller, Samuel Reeves and John S. Severson.

*Fifteenth Infantry*—Privates Charles S. Franklin and Thomas C. Meagher.

*Sixteenth Infantry*—Company G, privates, Frederick Succow, August Thompson, and Carl Thompson; Company H, privates, John Dalton, Ozias N. Davis, John Fowler, Lowry M. Garrison, Stephen R. Hastings, Thomas Haynes, James N. Preston, Milton Spencer, Thomas Stockdale, Theodore P. Sunder and Newton F. Wooster.

*Thirty-Fourth Infantry*—Company F, private Martin Walters; Company G, private Edwin H. King; Company H, privates Andrew Larson, Ambrose Moats, and William N. Schmitt.

*Thirty-Seventh Infantry*—Company K, privates, William Fallow, James House, Justice King, Wm. Paschal and Henry Robins.

*Thirty-Eighth Infantry*—Company A, privates, William F. Gray, Thomas A. Stoughton and Martin Walters; Company D, Corporal, Burton Adkins, and privates, Nels Christeman, John B. Iverson and Andrew Larson; Company G, privates, H. King, David G. Roberts and Daniel E. Seward; Company H, John Donelson, Ambrose Moats and Win. N. Schmitt, and Company K, private, Gunder Oleson.

*Forty-Fourth Infantry*—Company A, privates, Trevarius G. Price and Balthasar Schlenker.

*Forty-Sixth Infantry*—Company A, private, Leonidas Peyton.

*Forty-Seventh Infantry*—Company A, First Lieutenant, Leon H. Drake; Sergeant, James M. Snedegar; Corporals, Robert Sherman, James B. Woodward and Hiram Barnum, and privates, Jeremiah Adams, Charles Belding, Norman Chastily, James D. Chapman, Cornelius Doty, John Griffin, Jerome L. Lawrence, David Lowe, Pelamen Marquise, William T. Palmer, Thomas I. Piper, Wilber V. Partch, Irwin S. Swan, Silas E. Smith, James W. Scott, Elisha C. Tinney, George W. Tirsker, and Charles M. Whitford.

*Forty-Eighth Infantry*—Surgeon, John A. Blanchard; Company B, private, Peter C. Young.

*Second Cavalry*—Michael O'Sullivan, private, Company A; Francis M. Winters, private, Company F; Lewis H. Hathaway and Eldridge P. Rice, privates, Company I; Abel G. Newman, John L. Quick, and Overn Quick, privates, Company B; George W. Cadwell, Alpheus Scott and William Wade, privates, Company I.

*Fourth Cavalry*—Company B, privates, Erastus D. Stockton, Wm. Stewart, George True, George Mason and John A. Richards; Company G, Franz Gutsch, Gillard H. Jones, Fritz Muller and Peter Scharer; Company H, John S. Putnam and William W. Rood; Company I, Tollef Knudson, John Curren, Patrick D. McKane and Wm. R. Sargeant; Company L, Joseph M. Williams and William Hines.

*Fifth Cavalry*—Unassigned, privates, Charles Wiederer; Company C, privates, James G. Gilliland and George M. Johnson; Company

E, privates, Marshall Hatfield, Christian Martin and Andrew Meisser ; Company F, private, John Jager.

*Ninth Cavalry*—Major, Willis Drummond ; Company E, private, David G. Wilson ; Company F, Captain, Benjamin Contal, Q. M. S., Moses J. Teeter ; Sergeants, Bennett M. Reese, Joseph H. Wyman and Thomas Styles ; Corporals, Frank J. Williams and Daniel W. Culver, and privates, Otto Kramer, Wm. Conden, Reuben H. Griffin, Hiram M. C. Luce, John Lawton, Edward Perry, Patrick Pennington, Benjamin F. Severance, Robert H. Scarff, Emil Shottle, Jacob W. Schuck and Jacob Wissensea.

*First Battery*—Privates, Alexander Gatlord and William R. Leebert.

*Third Battery*—Privates, Freedom Jackson and Elonzo H. Winn.

*Fourth Battery*—Privates, Daniel T. Fagan and Elnathan P. Luke.

*Engineer Regiment of the West*—Company F, Artificers, John Flaherty and George W. Wilson ; Company I, Sergeants, Stephen H. West and Alva R. Prescott ; Corporals, Solomon Goodrich and John A. Rhea ; Artificers, Sylvester Baker, James E. Banks, Eli Cole, Charles H. Dakin, George W. Fay, Cornelius O'Flaherty, and privates, Daniel Collins, Peter Conroy, Homer C. Cook, George L. Gilbert, Robert B. Kennedy, Martin Klingman, Richard McNallay, Calvin Newton, Henry Odle and Thomas C. Steward.

*Fifteenth Missouri Infantry*—Company K, Sergeant, Peter Karberg ; Corporal, Alois Ehrensperger ; Musician, Frederick Beck ; Wagoner, Philip Dock, and privates, Christian Dorweiler, Paul Dorweiler, Sebastian Eckart, Charles Erhardt, Benedict Gissinger, Wm. Halberkan, Mathaus Kaiser, John Moses, Lucas Moser, Nicholas Peschang, Henry Ribbe, John H. Schmidt, Joseph Slatel, Herman Startemeyer and Max Ziegelmaier.

*Third Missouri Cavalry*—Company F, Captain, James Call ; Company G, private, Benjamin W. Gaylord.

*Fourth Missouri Cavalry* — Company F, Musician, Henry Hamann, and privates, August Priest, Balthaser Boder and John Langhaus.

*Fifth Cavalry, Missouri State Militia*—Company H, Corporal, Lorenzo King, and private, Orlando C. Tracey.

*Twelfth Illinois Infantry*—Company F, private, George Schmidt.

*Forty-Third Illinois Infantry*—Company H, private, Christian Steinman.

*Second Kansas Cavalry*—Company I, Quartermaster-Sergeant, Moses H. Barker ; Sergeants, Bartlett F. Browning and Morris Enright ; Corporals, Joseph Henderson, Lewis R. Funston, Joshua B. Bailey, Benjamin W. Hicks, Asa Moore and Edward Ross ; Saddler, Calvin H. Freeman, and privates, John Akerson, Stewart Abbott, Alonzo Hunt, Joseph Ringer, Charles P. Sheldon, Stephen M. Showey, Asa Toole, William H. Walker, Frederick Whirte and Alexander Wike.

*Sixth Wisconsin Infantry*—Company C, privates, Albert L. Fisk, William Kelley and William Winney.

*Seventh Wisconsin Infantry*—Company K, private, James M. Crawford.

*U. S. Colored Infantry*—Private, John Anderson.

#### ROLL OF HONOR

The following is the list of Clayton county soldiers who died during the course of the war :

Capt. Alvah Bevins, killed in battle at Pea Ridge, Ark., March 7, 1862; Lieut. Josiah Wragg, died in prison at Atlanta, Ga., June 9, 1864; Allen, Charles A., died at Vicksburg, Miss., Aug. 14, 1863; Allman, George W., died at Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 7, 1864; Alloway, William H., died on hospital boat, June 8, 1863; Anderson, John, died at Island No. 66, Mississippi river, Feb. 1, 1864; Andrews, Hugh W., died at Camp Ford, Tex., Aug. 3, 1864; Arble, Richard P., died at Farmersburg, Nov. 25, 1862; Baker, Sylvester, died at Vicksburg, Miss.; Baldwin, James, died at Memphis, Tenn., June 28, 1864; Barber, Sylvester, died at St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 11, 1862; Barnhouse, James M., killed in action at Dallas, Ga., May 27, 1864; Barnhouse, John M., killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Bartholomew, A. J., died at Sperry, Feb. 29, 1864; Batholomew, William, died at Volga City, June 4, 1862; Baxter, Cornelius W., died at Moscow, Tenn., Aug. 2, 1863; Beck, George, died at Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 8, 1863; Betteys, Mason D., died at St. Genevieve, Mo., March 19, 1863; Bigler, Martin, died at New Orleans, La., June 25, 1864; Birch, John, died at New Orleans, La., Nov. 7, 1863; Bishop, William, killed at Ringgold, Ga., Nov. 27, 1863; Brown, James D., died near Vicksburg, Miss., Jan. 25, 1863; Brown, James W., died at Milliken's Bend, La., July 14, 1863; Brown, Richard W., died in prison at Florence, S. C., Nov. 8, 1864; Brown, Robert P., died at McGregor, March 30, 1864; Brown, William S., died at Washington, D. C., Sept. 4, 1864; Burns, John, died at Rome, Ga., Aug. 21, 1864; Busby, Thomas, died at Rolla, Mo., March 10, 1863; Bush, Peter, died at Memphis, Tenn., June 16, 1864; Campbell, Bernard D., killed in action at Corinth, Miss., Oct. 4, 1862; Carr, John H., died at Ft. Sully, March 20, 1864; Carrier, Charles, died at Clinton, Mo., Aug. 11, 1862; Cassell, Henry, killed in battle at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Chapman, George W., killed in battle at Beaver Creek, Mo., Nov. 24, 1862; Christeman, Nels, died at Vicksburg, Miss., Aug. 20, 1863; Churnor, Smith, died April 29, 1863; Clark, Avery, killed at White Stone Hills, S. D., Sept. 3, 1863; Cooper, Thomas, died at Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 10, 1863; Corbin, Levi M., killed at Atlanta, Ga., July 22, 1864; Crist, Jacob B., died at St. Louis, Mo., June 2, 1862; Crop, John S., died at St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 13, 1863; Crumb, Oscar, killed in action at Montevallo, April 14, 1862; Curtis, James M., died on the steamer "R. C. Wood," July 15, 1863; Dalton, Milo, died at Vicksburg, Miss., Aug. 19, 1863; Daniels, Thomas, died on steamer "R. C. Wood," Aug. 16, 1863; Davis, Ozias M., died at Davenport, March 22, 1862; Dean, George, died May 19, 1863; Dix, Hervey, killed at Kirksville, Mo., Aug. 20, 1861; Donaldson, John, died at New Orleans, La., Aug. 14, 1863; Dorland, Clement,



killed accidentally at Cheran, N. C., March 6, 1865; Eastman, Geo. W. D., died at Memphis, Tenn., April 10, 1864; Engeberson, Gunter J., died at Vicksburg, Miss., June 23, 1863; Farrin, William H., killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Fay, George W., died at Warrenton, Miss., June 14, 1863; Felter, George W., died at St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 8, 1862; Fitch, John, died at Jackson, Tenn., April 10, 1863; Flanniken, James M., died at Smithland, Ky., Feb. 15, 1862; Fobes, Warren S., died at Pacific, Mo., Dec. 24, 1861; Follion, Orion S., died at Houston, Mo., Dec. 7, 1862; Frazer, John, drowned at Ft. Randall, S. D., May 23, 1863; Fulton, James, died at Macon City, Mo., Sept. 29, 1862; Garretson, William, died on floating hospital at Memphis, Aug. 12, 1863; Garrison, Lowry M., died at Keokuk, Nov. 17, 1862; Gaylord, Alexander, died at Helena, Ark., Oct. 21, 1862; Gaylord, Wm. F., died on steamer "R. C. Wood," Aug. 22, 1863; Gibson, James M., died at Woodville, Ala., Feb. 7, 1864; Gifford, W. H. H., died at Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 5, 1865; Goldsmith, Edward, died on Turkey river, Aug. 16, 1863; Goodnough, George A., died in Fayette county, Aug. 31, 1863; Goslin, John L., died at Memphis, Tenn., June 21, 1864; Gray, William H., killed at Julesburg, C., Jan. 7, 1865; Grayson, Thomas, killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Green, Archibald, killed at St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 27, 1864; Green, George, died at St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 17, 1862; Griffin, Reuben H., died at St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 12, 1863; Griffith, William H., killed in action at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Guiselman, John, died at New Orleans, La., Nov. 21, 1863; Hall, Alfred E., died at Rolla, Mo., 3, 1862; Hall, Perry, killed in action at Pea Ridge, Ark., March 7, 1862; Hamer, William A., died at Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 10, 1864; Harding, Henry P., died at Fort Snelling, Minn., Dec. 10, 1863; Hardy, James W., died at St. Louis, Mo., May 25, 1863; Haskill, Leonard, died at Jackson, Tenn., Jan. 12, 1863; Haskell, Parson F., died at Camp Sherman, Sept. 2, 1863; Hastings, Stephen R., died at St. Louis, Mo., June 28, 1862; Hathaway, Lewis H., died at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 23, 1864; Haynes, Thomas, died at Quincy, Ill., July 12, 1862; Hays, Thomas, killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Henderson, Cyrus M., died at Beaver Creek, Mo., Dec. 28, 1862; Hewlet, Joseph A., died at Rolla, Mo., Oct. 17, 1862; Hinds, Charles B., died at Grand Gulf, Miss., May 14, 1863; Hinkle, Thomas, died at St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 6, 1862; Hood, William, killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Hotinger, Henry, died at Helena, Ark., April 13, 1864; Hughes, Andrew, died at Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 15, 1864; Hughs, Francis M., killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 19, 1863; Iverson, John B., died at Port Hudson, La., Aug. 8, 1863; Jackson, Freedom, killed in battle at Pea Ridge, Ark., March 7, 1862; Jones, Webster, died at Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 2, 1863; Kain, John, died at Cairo, Ill., March 29, 1863; Kelley, William H., died on steamer "Burlington," September 4, 1864; King, Levi R., died at Jackson, Tenn., April 15, 1863; Lackey, Augustus, died at Forsyth, Mo., April 22, 1862; Lampert, Joseph, killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Lawrence, George H., died at Houston, Mo., Jan. 20, 1863; Lazelle, Marshall, died at St. Louis Mo., June 20, 1862; Lewis, Harvey, died at Cairo, Ill., Dec. 17, 1862; Lewis, Henry L., killed at Old Town Creek, Miss., July 15, 1864; Lewis, Henry T., died at Rolla, Mo., Oct.

27, 1862; Lewis, Runyon C., died at Jackson, Tenn., Feb. 7, 1863; Linger, Fredrick, died at Memphis, Tenn., July 5, 1864; Lockridge, Daniel P., died at Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 21, 1863; Lyons, John, died at St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 30, 1862; Mack, John, died at St. Louis, Mo., May 9, 1862; Malony, Jerry, died near Vicksburg, Miss., June 15, 1863; Maloney, Jeremiah, died at Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 6, 1863; Mather, John H., died near Vicksburg, Miss., June 10, 1863; McKittrick, Robert H., died on the steamer "City of Memphis," June 27, 1863; McLoon, Barney, killed at Shiloh, Tenn., April 6, 1862; Millholen, Perry, died at Nashville, Tenn., April 6, 1865; Mohlstedt, Henry, died at Memphis, Tenn., July 8, 1864; Moore, Oscar, died at Austin, Texas, Nov. 18, 1865; Moore, Samuel W., killed at Black River Bridge, Miss., May 17, 1863; Mosgrove, Briggs, died at Keokuk, Ia., April 16, 1865; Muller, Theodore, died at Jackson, Tenn., March 13, 1863; Neelings, James W., died at Farmersburg, Nov. 29, 1862; Nelson, C. S., died at Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 20, 1863; Newton, Calvin, died at Vicksburg, Miss., July 18, 1863; Noble, Dwight, died at St. Genevieve, Mo., March 15, 1863; Oleson, Ammon, died at Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 8, 1864; Oleson, Gunder, died at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Sept. 27, 1863; O'Sullivan, Michael, died at Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 24, 1864; Otis, Francis A., died at Moscow, Tenn., June 28, 1863; Parker, William, died near Vicksburg, Miss., June 7, 1863; Penhollow, George W., died at Mallory, Oct. 13, 1862; Penny, Calvin, died at Cairo, Ill., Oct. 24, 1863; Perkins, William, died near Vicksburg, Miss., June 14, 1863; Perry, Edward, died at Camden, Ark., Oct. 30, 1865; Perry, Elijah, died at Memphis, Tenn., April 5, 1864; Pettis, Robert M., died at Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 23, 1863; Pitt, Robert, died at Haines Bluff, Miss., June 6, 1863; Polley, Daniel W., died at Keokuk, June 12, 1865; Pool, John C., died on steamer "City of Memphis," July 17, 1863; Poole, Robert J., died at Milliken's Bend, La., April 21, 1863; Powers, Oscar, died at Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 27, 1863; Preschl, Carl, killed at Hartsville, Mo., Jan. 11, 1863; Presho, Alexander, died at Camp Sherman, Miss., Aug. 20, 1863; Preston, James M., killed at Shiloh, Tenn., April 6, 1862; Price, Valma V., died at Mobile, Ala., July 6, 1862; Randall, Samuel, died at Ft. Randall, S. D., July 22, 1863; Rankin, James, died at Brownsville, Ark., Sept. 14, 1863; Reed, Charles H., died at Jackson, Tenn., April 11, 1863; Reichart, John, killed at Pea Ridge, Ark., March 7, 1862; Reinhardt, George, died at Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 3, 1863; Renwick, Augustus A., died at Vicksburg, Miss., June 27, 1863; Reynolds, E., died at Hempstead, Tex., Oct. 30, 1865; Rizer, William W., died at New Orleans, La., April 5, 1865; Robison, David H., died at St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 4, 1863; Russell, Enos M., killed at Memphis, Tenn., April 29, 1865; Sargent, Lyman, died at Pacific, Mo., Nov. 14, 1861; Schlake, Gerhard, died at Little Rock, Ark., Nov. 11, 1863; Schlake, Henry, died at Vicksburg, Miss., June 5, 1864; Scofield, Norman W., died at Ironton, Mo., Feb. 24, 1863; Scoville, Orrin, died at St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 27, 1862; Seeber, Timothy, killed at Pea Ridge, Ark., March 7, 1862; Seimer, John F., died at Pleasant Hill, La., May 5, 1864; Shaw, Samuel P., killed at Florence, Ala., Oct. 30, 1864; Shuck, David M., died at Milliken's Bend, La., April 21, 1863; Shuck, Jacob W., died near Walnut Hills,

Ark., Dec. 18, 1865; Smith, James, killed in action at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Southworth, William H., died at Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 15, 1863; Sprague, Perry C., died at Elkport, Dec. 8, 1864; Squires, Lester, killed in action at Blue Mills, Mo., Sept. 17, 1861; Stahl, Joseph, died at St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 9, 1863; Stemgrinson, Jacob, killed at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863; Stephenson, William C., died at Vicksburg, Miss., July 23, 1863; Stockton, Erasmus D., died at Cairo, Ill., May 23, 1863; Stoughton, Thomas A., died at Highland, Sept. 26, 1863; Tavis, John, killed at Pleasant Hill, La., April 9, 1864; Thompson, August, killed at Nickajack Creek, July 21, 1864; Tinkham, William H., died at Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 29, 1863; Thurber, Avery R., died at Iron Mountain, Mo., Feb. 27, 1863; Waggoner, William E., died at Jeffersonville, Ind., June 17, 1864; Wakefield, Lorenzo, died at Vicksburg, Miss., July 25, 1863; Washburn, Francis, died at Morganzia, La., Sept. 30, 1864; Weeks, Ralph A., died at New Orleans, La., Aug. 11, 1864; Weseman, Charles, killed in action at Pea Ridge Ark., March 7, 1862; Whipple, Darwin, died at St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 3, 1863; White, Jacob, died at Vicksburg, Miss., July 31, 1863; Whitford, James, killed in action at Montevallo, Mo., April 14, 1862; Wilcox, Hiram, died at Mound City, Ill., Nov. 24, 1862; Wilkie, G. M., died at Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 15, 1863; Wilson, Charles W., died at Cairo, Ill., April 10, 1863; Wilson, David G., died at St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 30, 1864; Wing, David B., died at St. Louis, Mo., July 4, 1863.



## CHAPTER VIII

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### DOMESTIC HISTORY DURING WAR

RAILROAD PUSHED WESTWARD—LAND TITLES DISPUTE—DIAMOND JOE—  
M'GREGOR DURING WAR—RAFTING—EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS—  
CHURCH ACTIVITIES—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—WARTIME POLITICS—  
UNION PARTY—DIVISION OF COUNTY PROPOSED—CAMPAIGN OF 1862—  
PEACE PARTY, 1863—SECOND LINCOLN CAMPAIGN—COUNTY AFFAIRS  
—REVIEW OF COUNTY IN 1865—SIDELIGHTS ON PROGRESS—DEATH OF  
R. R. READ—MINOR EVENTS.

#### GOLDEN DAYS OF M'GREGOR

WHILE the chief interest of the people of Clayton county centered about the war during these years, from 1861 to 1865, it was not their only concern. While there were scores of Union meetings and while the thought of the people was directed to enlistments, to the relief of the soldiers and to the news from the front, they did not neglect the business, social or political life of the county. Despite the heavy taxes imposed by war, times continued to improve from year to year and recovery was made from the depression of the previous administration. The war created an increased demand for products and decreased the labor supply so that wages reached the highest point they had ever known in this country.

In 1861 the shin-plaster was still the greatest curse of business and the Elkader paper states that business is improving, "although not so good as a year ago." The farmers were afraid to exchange their grain for Illinois or Wisconsin money, as they could not tell what it would be worth from one day to the other. R. E. Price tells the story that he worked and saved until he had sufficient to buy a suit of clothes. He walked to McGregor to make the purchase, but, when he got there, he found that his money had so depreciated during the day that he only had enough to buy a vest. Prices were low in 1861, wheat was quoted at 51 cents, corn 20, oats 18, and eggs 4 cents per dozen. Nevertheless, the times improved and, before the close of the war, prices were good. The business of the county was hard hit by fire. The burning of the mill was a great loss to Elkader and although work of rebuilding was soon commenced it was three years before it was again in operation, at which time the citizens of Elkader duly cele-

brated. At Clayton the large sawmill owned by Frank Smith was burned, together with 550,000 feet of seasoned lumber. This, and the growing importance of McGregor, served to check the growth of Clayton. Guttenberg, with its conservative German population, continued to do an ever increasing business. McGregor increased yearly in prosperity until the last years of the war. During these years, however, it was visited by three great fires which wiped out the fragile frame buildings which had been erected because of the uncertainty of the land titles. For the year ending July, 1861, McGregor, according to the Chicago Times, was the largest primary grain-receiving depot in the world. The receipts of wheat were 3,000,000 bu. and, during the winter season, pork to the value of \$200,000 and hides and furs to the value of \$100,000 were handled. Still later, in January, 1862, the business for the month was reported as wheat, 1,274,748 bu.; flour, 10,752 barrels; dressed hogs, 13,502, lard 32,810 barrels, butter 268,940 lbs., eggs, 486 barrels; hides, green, 178,045 lbs.; dry, 83,530 lbs., and from 600 to 800 teams were said to arrive in McGregor daily during the grain season. A correspondent in the Dubuque Herald, in July, 1862, describes scenes in McGregor during these busy days. He says: "On Sunday evening the teams loaded with wheat, principally, commenced rolling in through the long, and almost only street of the city. The line of teams became almost continuous through the day and probably through the night on Monday, and by Tuesday, by 10 o'clock a. m. there was a perfect jam of loaded teams at the warehouses along the river front and, as far as the eye could reach along the main street, one line of laden wagons could be seen turned toward the warehouses, while as long a line was turned homeward, on the opposite side, most of them laden with goods purchased at McGregor. A gentleman, a stranger like ourself, who accompanied us to the neighborhood of the grain houses, spoke in Norwegian to one of the teamsters, inquiring how far he had come with his load of grain. The answer was, 150 miles. We inquired farther, and were told that it is a common thing for farmers 200 and more miles distant westward and northwestward to haul their wheat in wagons to McGregor."

*Railroad Pushed Westward*—During the first days of the war, McGregor was also a primary point of concentration for the volunteers and this also did much to increase business and to put money into circulation. Seven years prior to the war a railroad was proposed to run west from McGregor. A few miles of road were graded, ties were provided, culverts and bridges constructed, and things looked promising. Times grew hard, money was far from easy and the work was turned over to other parties. These failed, and it was turned to a third company, which was also unable to push it forward. By some legal process the franchise reverted to Judge Brown, one of the most active of the original promoters. Brown sold the interest of the old company to the McGregor Western Rail Road Company, of which George Green was president and James L. Reynolds, vice-president. This company conferred with the officials of the Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien Company and active work on the new railroad was recommenced in September, 1863. The enterprise had been embarrassed by a rival survey commencing 9 miles north of McGregor at the mouth of

Paint Creek, but this was also adjusted. In March, 1863, a contract for 18 miles of grading was let to Green and Harding, to be completed by July 15. In October, of the same year, the first engine was on the track, three miles of track had been laid and the road was progressing at the rate of one half mile a day. It was then the plan that the road should go to Postville, and branch to the northwest, while the main line went via Clermont and West Union. It was at this time that McGregor awoke to the fact that its interests were not being considered in the railroad company's plans and that, instead of increasing its business, the new line threatened its very existence. The company asked \$50,000 to lay a double track from North McGregor to McGregor. This offer was afterward reduced to \$20,000 and was tentatively accepted, until the committee found that the railroad would maintain North McGregor as its terminus and that the branch would simply be for the accommodation of McGregor's local business. McGregor then determined to "confer with Mineral Point Road parties and secure an eastern connection through the Illinois Central." In April, the Times complains that "North McGregor is looking up frightfully."

On May 18, 1864, the railroad had passed Monona and reached Luana, although there were no turn-table facilities and the train was obliged to back down. On August 8, 1864, the first train reached Postville, although it had been delayed by the difficulty in obtaining labor during the harvest. By October, 1865, the road was completed as far as Conover and it steadily pushed its way westward. By the summer of 1864, McGregor had yielded to the inevitable and a Mr. Freeman had established the first bus line from North to South McGregor. A gang of 150 men were also employed by the railroad to cut a canal through the island between North McGregor and Prairie du Chien.

As a result of the hard times of previous years there were also financial difficulties. Robert Grant was forced to suspend business and, in January, 1862, the Lee & Kinniard bank failed, with liabilities of \$57,000 and assets which finally netted considerably less. This was the first bank in Clayton county and at its failure no criticism was made that it had not been honestly conducted, but simply that it had been forced to the wall by the hard times.

*Land Titles' Dispute*—In December, 1861, James McGregor, Jr., feeling that he was secure in his title, proposed to sell to the citizens the 500 lots, which were then claimed and improved, for the total sum of \$190,000. This offer was accepted and a committee appointed to assess the lots. After this was done, Mr. McGregor refused to abide by their assessment and wished to make it himself. At a meeting, over which D. Baugh presided, a committee, consisting of H. W. Burlingame, J. B. Benton, William I. Gilchrist, H. Kennedy, Michael O'Brien, Martin Knight and G. H. Hand, was appointed to guard the interests of the city. It was soon after this, that the first of the fires occurred and the McGregor interests forbade any rebuilding until the lots were purchased. An indignation meeting was held Jan. 10, 1862, and an agreement was prepared, not to recognize the claims either of James McGregor, Jr., or of the heirs of Alexander McGregor, and Baugh, Stoneman, Hand and Updegraff were employed as attorneys



for the citizens. As if these were not troubles enough, change became so scarce that the city of McGregor issued scrip. These were checks upon the McGregor State Bank, issued by McGregor and signed by the city recorder. It was said that they represented cash actually deposited, nevertheless, this scrip was soon discounted and was later refused by many. To add to its burdens McGregor also suffered a severe epidemic of smallpox in 1864. Despite these discouragements McGregor maintained itself as the largest and busiest town of the county; many permanent buildings were erected and schools and churches thrived.

In 1861 mention is made of the Union Schools, with E. B. Wakeman at their head, assisted by Miss Updegraff. In 1862 appears the advertisement of Miss Jane's School and, in 1863, McGregor formed a select school with Miss Jane as principal. There were many church activities and Rev. Father Nagle is applauded for his vigorous efforts to make McGregor more orderly. At this time the Catholic congregation was planning a larger church and to use the old building for their school which then had 67 pupils. Among the other activities of the time were the formation of a musical union with C. F. Remick as president, and of a board of trade of 40 members, with W. I. Gilbert as president and J. V. D. Benton as secretary. A project for a ship canal from the lakes to the Mississippi agitated the people and delegates were appointed to a Ship Canal Convention. A cemetery association was also formed, a National Bank was proposed, and the McGregor and Fort Atkinson Horse Railway was incorporated. In the newspaper world, Willis Drummond bought the Press from Mr. Belfoy. In 1861, P. A. Richardson left the Times and it was published by Andrick and Tenney. In August, 1863, Richardson went back to the Times and Tenney bought the Tribune, which was then the News.

*"Diamond Jo"*—In 1862, Joe Reynolds, pork packer, built the front wall of the new establishment of his growing business. Joe Reynolds, better known as "Diamond Jo," was one of the most bizarre figures of the early days along the Mississippi. The "Diamond Jo" packets were known from St. Paul to New Orleans, and many are the stories told of this shrewd and daring business man. At the time when the "Diamond Jo" line finally passed out of Mr. Reynolds' hands the following was written concerning him:

"Those who love the romance of 'Picturesque old river days,' hold in memory the virile men who were a part of its fascinating story. Of these men there is none whose life history is so often rehearsed, none who is so well-remembered, as Joseph Reynolds, 'Diamond Jo,' as he was known in life and is still remembered. He dominated early up-river life in a peculiar fashion. His mark, a black diamond with 'Jo' in the center, has been a familiar sight to river folks for fifty years. One by one, other steamboat companies sold out after the railroad built along the river, but the 'two long, two short' whistle of the big Diamond Jo packets are still heard. For a long time now, its four steamers have been the only boats to carry through freight and passengers from St. Paul to St. Louis. Whether the new management will retain the familiar Diamond Jo sign is not known. But,

however that may be, the romance of it goes with the passing of the boats out of the hands of the Reynolds' estate.

"Diamond Jo for many years made McGregor his headquarters. Mrs. Reynolds lived here until a short time before her death. A fountain, the gift of Mr. Reynolds to the town, is in the triangle park. The old residents delight in giving interesting reminiscences of the man in his various capacities of fur trader, grain buyer, steamboat owner and miner. His estate at the time of his death was reported at \$7,000,000. The main facts of his life can be chronicled, though the stories, true and untrue, told of him and his big days on the Upper River and later in the mining districts of the Southwest, would fill many pages. He was born in Sylvan county, New York, where he received a common school education. He early engaged in business and for a time managed a mill property near the old home. He came to Chicago in the 50's and bought wheat on the streets there, which he shipped to his New York mill to be ground into flour and put upon the market. After a prosperous period in Chicago, he came to McGregor and from this point established a grain line. His business grew to immense proportions and for years he was known as the heaviest grain buyer in the Northwest. Later he established a steamboat line and thereby hangs a tale according to the old river men. He had tried in St. Louis to hire a Missouri river boat to bring down a cargo of skins. He and the steamboat people had trouble over the matter and he was refused the services of the boat. To get even, he built the Diamond Jo line of steamers which soon led them all. He built the Hot Springs, Arkansas Railway, because, it is related, he was disgusted with the stage that ran between Malvern and the Springs. The railroad was for some time his individual property and a source of immense income. Mr. Reynolds in later years became interested in mines in Colorado and Arizona. His name became as familiar to western mining men as it long had been to Mississippi and Missouri river farmers and shippers and to Chicago Board of Trade men. It was at his famous Congress, Arizona, mine, attended only by his secretary and doctor, that Joseph Reynolds died, in 1871, at the age of 71."

*McGregor During War*—In 1862, through the efforts of Senator Hammer, a law was passed by the legislature establishing a city court for McGregor, and in September, 1863, McGregor was incorporated under a new law, abandoning the first charter under which it was incorporated in 1857. With the completion of the first portion of the railroad west of the Mississippi, the freight to be ferried from McGregor to Prairie du Chien grew enormously in bulk. In order to handle it, John Lawler, agent for the Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien Railroad, had barges built with railroad tracks built on them. These barges were moored at approaches built on either shore, freight cars were loaded onto them, four or five to each barge. The ferry then towed the car-laden boats across the river. This worked all right in the open season, but not in winter. To solve this problem Lawler built a pile bridge, leaving two open spaces in the channel for the passage of boats. When the navigation season closed a temporary bridge was thrown across these openings and through train service maintained during the winter months. These temporary bridges had to be torn

out each spring, and to avoid this Mr. Lawler devised the scheme of lashing barges together and putting them in these openings. A cable and drum made it possible to swing these barges open to allow the passage of boats. In this way the pontoon bridge across the Mississippi, from McGregor to Prairie du Chien, was constructed and, with some minor changes, it remains practically the same today, as the longest pontoon bridge in the world.

*Rafting*—In these days rafting was one of the greatest industries along the Mississippi. From every river and stream in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin the logs came racing and jamming down to the Mississippi, where they were pinned together into great rafts, manned with a crew of oarsmen and a pilot and started on their long voyage down the river, either to the lumber mills or to New Orleans for trans-shipment. One familiar phase of the old time life upon the Mississippi was these monster rafts, with their long sweep of oars at bow and stern and a little shanty built in the center, where the men ate and bunked. The shouts of the red-shirted oarsmen as they bent to the oar in obedience to the orders of the pilot, bawled out in forceful and picturesque English; the dancing, singing and card-playing with which they passed the hours when not on duty—all these are scenes never to be forgotten by old time dwellers along the river. McGregor was one of the points where these rafts tied up, took on supplies, wet and dry, and the old town resounded many times with the rough merry-making of their boisterous crews. Mrs. C. McHose, of McGregor, who lived near the wharf in those early days, gives the following description of a typical scene of the raftsmen's life. She was awakened one night by singing and the sound of a fiddle. The river was flooded by a full June moon. In its light a log float was seen drifting by, with a score of raftsmen dancing and singing around the fiddler in the center. The fiddler stopped, one of the crowd scrambled on top of the shanty, struck the attitude of an old time Methodist preacher, and, beginning with "My Brethern," in sonorous tones, launched into an exhortation to righteous ways. A few moments later, above the boisterous laughter with which the harangue was received, the voice of a man at the oars sang out clear above the water, "Go tell Aunt Rhody her old grey goose is dead." The would-be preacher stopped, the song was taken up and as the raft drifted out of view into the shadows of the night, the weird volume of harmony came echoing back from the darkness. In fogs and bad weather the rafts were tied up to the shore. This was the signal for a grand carousal and many are the tales told in the river-towns of the wild doings, and of the yet wilder bouts when the men were paid off at the end of their journey and came up the river on the little raft boats which raced back with them to the pineries of the north. In 1865, the Times says: "The river banks are piled with the pine products of the north, while many rafts of logs, lumber, lath and shingles lie as yet unhandled at the waters edge." Two years later tow-boats came into general use to increase the capacity and speed of these monster rafts and, still later, two boats were used, a small boat for steerage at the bow and a large propeller at the stern. In this way lumber rafts worth nearly a quarter of a million have been towed.



*Educational Progress*—With the new school law there was greatly increased activity among the teachers of the county. In October, 1861, a successful institute was held at Garnavillo, with H. Emery as president, John Everall as secretary and Prof. Putnam of Indiana as instructor. A teachers' association meeting was held at Windsor in March, 1862. Alonzo Brown was the first county superintendent, being elected in 1858. He was very active and promoted the first teachers' association and the first institute which was held in Garnavillo. Prof. J. Briggs was one of the leading educators of the county. Mr. Emery was from Monona and soon became popular with the teachers. Prof. Kramer, together with Kingsley, Crary and Everall, were among the leading male teachers, and Miss Melvina Stewart was prominent among the women. During these years the force of male teachers was depleted by enlistments in the army. The institute for 1862 was held under the direction of Supt. Emery, Prof. Ingalls as conductor and, in 1863, the institute was held at McGregor. At the association meeting held at Windsor in the winter of 1864 Supt. Emery was presented with a watch by the teachers in acknowledgment of his faithful service, though their hearts were filled with sorrow as they knew that he was about to die of consumption. In 1865 a successful institute was held in Elkader and in November of that year, Jonathan Briggs, who had devoted his life to the instruction of the young, completed the building of an academy upon the site of the "Old Brick Tavern" at Garnavillo. This institution was conducted by Mr. Briggs for several years, but finally had to be abandoned on account of lack of support.

*Church Activities*—Among the church activities during this war period were the building of the Freewill Baptist Church at Strawberry Point at a cost of \$4,000, in 1861; the holding of numerous church conventions; the meeting of the County Sunday School Association at National, in 1862; a convention of Universalists in 1863; the activity of the Good Templars at Strawberry Point and other towns in the county; a donation party by which the meagre salary of Rev. Joseph R. Cameron was helped out at Volga and Elkader, and the raising of \$3,000 to build a Congregational Church at Garnavillo.

*Agricultural Societies*—A meeting of the Clayton County Agricultural Society was held at Garnavillo, May 25, 1861. Norman Hamilton presided and Alonzo Brown was secretary. Previous fairs had been more in the nature of local enterprises and the society was now founded on county lines. A constitution was adopted and the following officers were elected: President, Edwin Sherman; secretary, Norman Hamilton; treasurer, John H. Shoulte; directors, Joseph Eiboek, George Killam, Alonzo Brown, John Dice, M. B. Sherman, George W. Beach, Samuel Murdock, O. W. Crary and P. M. Potter. It was decided to hold the fair at Garnavillo, in October, 1861, and premiums were announced for a two days' fair. The weather was bad and the crowd and the exhibits were small. Twenty-four persons made entries and eighteen of them drew premiums. There not being a sufficiency of money to pay them fully, nearly all those entitled to premiums liberally returned part of the money. The amount refunded was \$21.15 and the amount paid was \$33.10. The second

annual meeting was held at Garnavillo, May 21, 1862. At this time it was decided to locate the fair permanently at Farmersburg or National, and \$80 was voted for an exhibition building. Edwin Sherman was elected president and N. Hamilton secretary. A state fair was held at Dubuque in 1862, and some of the fancy stock bought there by N. Hamilton, Edwin Sherman, James Uriell and John Osterdock was shown at the county fair. At this state fair flour made by the Stone Mill at Clayton took first prize. Of this second county fair it is said that it was attended by the usual "fair" weather, which meant that it rained every day. Nevertheless the fair, which lasted one day only, was well attended and enough was received to pay the premiums in full. At the meeting in 1863 O. W. Cray was elected president and N. Hamilton secretary. A fair was held at National and is said to have been a success. Judge Price made an address, as did Mr. Beebe, of Dubuque. Miss McWilliams took the riding premium. The society now had 200 members, but the secretary bitterly complains that 81 of them were delinquent. On the second day of the fair a collection was taken for fair buildings, netting \$50. In 1864, J. E. Corlett was president and N. Hamilton continued as secretary. The fair was held October 12 and 13, during one of the most exciting periods of the county's history. It was the time of the draft and of Union meetings and a spirited election contest with the county seat war on, and many Union meetings, and probably for these reasons the county newspapers give no account of the fair. In 1865 James Parker was president and J. E. Corlett secretary. The fair was said to have been a success, although it rained on the last day and it was thought there was sufficient members in good standing to secure the \$200 aid offered by the state.

*Wartime Politics*—Politically the history of these war times is most interesting. The Republican party had been successful in the elections of 1860 and had built up a strong and vigorous young party. With the incoming of a Republican president, under the old spoils system, there were many offices to be given, and, very naturally, there were many eager applicants. Into this normal course of politics was thrown the bombshell of war. To understand the politics of 1861, it must be remembered that there were four almost distinct divisions within the two parties. Among the Republicans, there were the Abolitionists, with whom the abolition of slavery was paramount even to the perpetuity of the Union. There were other Republicans, descendants of the old Whig party, who had but little sympathy with the anti-slavery movement, who opposed its extension, but were not anxious to abolish it in the South but who were opposed to democracy along old party lines. Among the Democrats, there was an element in full sympathy with slavery and with the sentiment of the South, believing in state's rights and feeling that the national government had no right to coerce the states. The other element of democracy opposed and distrusted Lincoln, but thought that the preservation of the Union was above all party considerations.

*"Union Party"*—With the opening of actual hostilities, the country was swept by a wave of patriotism, which, for the moment, did away with all thought of partisanship. It was at this time that many good

men of both parties conceived the idea of a "Union Party," which would be formed of both parties, who were to drop all partisan division during the war and have patriotism as the only plank in their platform. This was a highly Utopian idea, worthy of noble-hearted men, but thoroughly impracticable and taking no account of human prejudices and ambitions, or of the fact that the oil and water of Democracy and Republicanism would not mix.

Early in the year there was a call for a Union convention in Clayton county. This movement was fathered by Judge Eliphalet Price and in the call he was joined by many prominent men of both parties. The sentiment expressed was of absolute devotion to the Union and the desire for strictly non-partisan action. This movement gained rapid momentum in the county. At Guttenberg a caucus was held and at McGregor there was a large mass meeting which was addressed by Judge Baugh, C. F. Remick, Reuben Noble, John T. Stoneman and D. Hammer. In the meantime John Garber, as chairman of the Republican county committee, called a convention, and this meeting, which was held in Elkader and presided over by H. E. Newell, elected delegates to the state convention and resolved that the call for the Union convention was unwise, but instructed the central committee to abstain from calling a convention for the nomination of county officers. August 22 the Union mass convention was held and was largely attended, both by Republicans and Democrats. The resolutions were strongly in support of the Union and opposed the agitation of the question of dividing Clayton county and the making of any county seat contest during the war. Later, the Unionists held a second convention and placed candidates in nomination for county officers. This was the rock upon which the Union party split. The majority of the nominees were Democrats, some of the Republican wheel horses and officials were left off the ticket, and it was apparent that the Democrats were in control. With this state of affairs the Republicans soon placed a ticket in the field and the issues were joined largely along the old party lines. This drifting back into party, in spite of the war, took place in the state as well. The Republicans of the state nominated Kirkwood for Governor and resolved strongly for the Union and approved the acts of Lincoln. A Union state convention placed a ticket in the field and took high ground as to the support of the Union, but was inclined to be critical and to cling to the idea that some compromise might still be effected with the South. At this convention Reuben Noble was nominated for Supreme Judge, his opponent being Judge McHenry, of Des Moines. Noble received 150 votes to 94 for McHenry. Mr. Noble declined the nomination, as he did not wish to oppose his friend, Ralph T. Lowe, the Republican nominee. The Democrats held a state convention, at which there was a split. The Mahoney faction, which was in thorough sympathy with the South, leaving the convention. The Democrats resolved in favor of supporting the war, but divided the blame for the conflict equally between northern abolitionists and southern radicals. The course of Lincoln was viewed with alarm as tending toward a military despotism, and, while favoring the prosecution of the war to preserve the Union, the doctrine of state's rights was maintained. At this convention



Maturin L. Fisher was the nominee for Lieutenant-Governor, but, like Mr. Noble, he declined. With the pronouncements in state politics, it is easy to understand that those at heart in support of the Union quickly gravitated to the Republican party, that the Union party was a failure and that those opposed to the acts of Lincoln gradually became lukewarm in support of the war. The Clayton county election resulted in a victory of nearly two to one for Kirkwood. All the Republican county ticket was elected, the chief fight being for sheriff, in which John Garber (Rep.) defeated Jonathan Kauffman by a vote of 1,647 to 1,258. Henry Clay Dean, the Mahoney or "Secesh" candidate for Governor, received but 50 votes in the entire county.

*Division of County Proposed*—In 1861 and 1862 there was considerable agitation for the division of Allamakee and Clayton counties, making a third county from the north half of Clayton and the south half of Allamakee. In the summer of 1861, a meeting was called at Garnavillo to oppose this movement. F. Andros acted as chairman and Samuel Murdock, D. C. Rogers and F. Andros were appointed to interrogate legislative candidates and the voters agreed to support no one who favored division. McGregor quietly supported this movement, as did Lansing, which hoped to be the county seat of North Allamakee. The opposition was too strong, however, and the members from this county worked against division in the legislature, and, later, supported a law forbidding county seat elections oftener than once in three years.

*Campaign of 1862*—In 1862, politics were comparatively quiet. William B. Allison, later the distinguished senator from Iowa, was nominated for Congress, and his opponent was D. A. Mahoney, one of the most radical southern sympathizers in the state. The only county officer elected was clerk of the district court and for this place H. S. Granger had no opposition. The Democrats were in a hopeless minority in state and county, and the election was devoid of excitement. Allison received 1,511 to 1,131 votes cast for Mahoney.

*Peace Party, 1863*—In 1863, the "Peace Party" had its rise. It was argued that the war was a failure and that nothing remained but to make the best possible terms with the South, many advocating that it was best to let the confederacy go, rather than to prolong a costly and futile war. This peace movement stirred the most vigorous opposition and in place of political meetings there were "Union meetings" and "Union Clubs" formed all over the county.

With the progress of the war, with its fearful toll of blood and treasure, the resentment against the secessionists grew to a white-heat and with it came the increasing demand for the liberation of the slaves. The resolution passed by the Volga City Union Club reflects the Union sentiment of the entire county. The resolutions follow: "Resolved that censure cast upon the government by the North for using the sword to put down this infernal rebellion when it is evident to everyone that it can be done in no other way, stimulates and encourages the rebels to protract the struggle, and hold on in their mad career, at the enormous sacrifice of both blood and treasure. Resolved, That we will never consent that one foot of territory, within our national boundary, shall go down to posterity with the curse of slavery

upon it. Resolved, That we are ready to make almost any sacrifice in our power, rather than undergo the anguish of witnessing the downfall of our beloved country, and with it, the last hope of the oppressed throughout the earth." J. G. Whitford was president and W. A. Penfield secretary of this club. The people were warned against the Chicago Times and the Dubuque Herald as dangerous, disunion newspapers. It was at this time that the peace convention was held, to which reference has already been made, at which there were so many radical utterances against Lincoln and against the war.

In 1863 the Republicans adopted the name "Union," which they had refused to adopt in 1861, but at this time the word meant not a union of parties but the support of the "Union" as a nation. The Republicans presented the name of Judge E. H. Williams as a candidate for Supreme Judge. He was defeated for the nomination by Judge J. F. Dillon. This caused considerable feeling in northern Iowa and especially in Clayton county, and the nomination of Col. Stone for Governor was not popular. The Democratic state convention criticised the conduct of the war and, while maintaining a patriotic attitude toward the Union, was strongly in favor of peace. Maturin L. Fisher, of Clayton county, was the Democratic nominee for Governor, but he refused to run, and Gen. J. M. Tuttle was the nominee. The Democrats placed a full legislative and county ticket in the field, as did the Republicans, who, however, went under the name of the Union party. The entire Republican ticket was elected with average majorities of about 400. In this election J. Briggs ran as an independent candidate for superintendent, receiving nearly 500 votes.

*Second Lincoln Campaign*—In 1864 was the presidential election, and the endorsement of Lincoln was the great question. While the victories had been with the Union arms, Lee's army was holding out stubbornly, and the loss of life in Grant's army was appalling. Many calls for troops were made, and these necessitated the draft, which was highly unpopular. The Democrats nominated Gen. George B. McClellan, and the first portrait of the candidate ever used in a Clayton county paper was when his picture appeared at the head of a column in the McGregor Times. D. Baugh, as chairman, called a county convention of "all those opposed to the re-election of Mr. Lincoln and the continuance of this war for the sole purpose of freeing the negroes at the expense of the lives of hundreds of thousands of white men, and imposing upon us a national debt too onerous to be borne; and all those in favor of calling a national convention for the purpose of restoring peace with all its hallowed influences." The delegates from Mendon township, elected under this call, were Door D. Hoxsie, John T. Stoneman, William Coss, M. Mathews, Andrew Teets, M. O'Brien, B. Strouse, T. Beckwith, A. Hockhaus, Sam Peterson, D. Hammer, D. Baugh, L. Seals, William Huntting, G. S. C. Scott. The Republicans nominated B. T. Hunt as district elector, H. S. Granger for clerk and J. Oglesbee for recorder. At this election, also, McGregor made a try for the county seat. Many of the prominent Republican leaders of the state spoke in this county, among them Governor Stone, ex-Governor Kirkwood, William B. Allison and B. T. Hunt. The Republican majorities in the county averaged 500, and the

soldier vote added about 300 more. As to the county seat, Elkader received 2,403 and McGregor, which had made but a half-hearted fight, received 1,609. This was the last county seat election.

*Campaign of 1865*—In 1865, the shadow of Lincoln's death lay heavy on the hearts of all. The close of the war had ended criticism, and the course of Andrew Johnson as president had not as yet become acute. These things combined to make the election of the Republican ticket a foregone conclusion. In this emergency the Democrats abandoned their party name, to an extent, and their state ticket was known as the Iowa Soldiers' ticket, and Gen. T. H. Benton was the candidate for Governor. He spoke at Elkader, and his chief issue was opposition to negro suffrage. The nomination of Stone as Republican candidate for Governor was unpopular, and the Elkader Journal bolted that part of the ticket. Many of the county candidates were inclined to follow the Journal's lead, and leading Republicans sent the candidates a letter demanding that they support the ticket. This demand was signed by Thomas Updegraff, Samuel Merrill and others.

Illustrating the peculiar political conditions of that year, is the account of a political meeting held at Elkader, at which Reuben Noble spoke in favor of Benton and his platform. Judge Williams opposed the Benton platform but favored his election on account of his high character. Judge Murdock spoke in favor of Stone and for his platform and negro suffrage. He also attacked Judge Williams and Judge Noble in a witty speech. E. Odell spoke urging the election of Stone.

The Bentonites held a county convention at Garnavillo, placing a full county ticket in the field composed of both Democrats and Republicans. Noble, Williams and Eiboek lead the fight against Stone on the grounds of personal unfitness. Merrill, Updegraff, Drummond and Murdock were the Stone supporters. For sheriff, Capt. Elisha Boardman, and for coroner, H. D. Bronson, had no opposition. The opposition to Stone caused him to run more than 300 behind his ticket, his majority being 103, while Lieutenant-Governor Gue, Republican, also received 451 majority. The entire Republican ticket was elected with the exception of Lieutenant Hutchins, who was defeated for representative by William Leffingwell by 81 majority. An incident of this election, in those days when the ballots were printed by private parties, was, that on account of a mistake made in printing tickets at a McGregor office, Judge George G. Wright lost 714 votes in this county because his middle initial was printed "C."

*County Affairs*—The population of Clayton county in 1865 was 21,922. There were nineteen colored inhabitants, eleven of whom lived in McGregor and six in Giard. There were but two incorporated towns in the county, Guttenberg with 1,004 population, and McGregor with 2,008, just twice the size of Guttenberg. The population by townships was as follows: Buena Vista, 159; Boardman, 965; Cass, 1,010; Clayton, 800; Cox Creek, 739; Elk, 440; Farmersburg, 1,087; Garnavillo, 1,179; Giard, 1,106; Grand Meadow, 728; Highland, 729; Jefferson (not including Guttenberg) 1,068; Lodomillo, 789; Marion, 810; Mallory, 871; Millville, 656; Mendon (not including McGregor) 1,072; Monona, 1,468; Reed, 853; Sperry, 814; Volga, 1,069; Wagner, 808.



The Iowa Gazeteer, published in Chicago in 1865, gives the following description of the towns of the county as they were in that year: *Guttenberg*: "The first municipal election was held in April, 1851. Since that time the growth of the town has been onward and upward. Every year has witnessed new and substantial improvements and a large increase of trade and business. Since the incorporation of the town large sums have been annually expended in public improvements. Good roads have been made, leading to every part of the surrounding country. The town has an excellent steam ferry boat, which, during the season of navigation, plies regularly between this place and Glen Haven, three miles up the river, on the Wisconsin side. The buildings are mostly of stone, of which material an excellent quality is obtained from the bluff back of the town. There are now in place seven general stores, two groceries, two clothing stores, two hardware, stove and tin stores, two drugstores, three millinery and fancy stores, four blacksmith and three saddler shops, two wagon and carriage shops, one gun shop, three furniture shops, four hotels, five breweries, several warehouses, two flouring mills and one sawmill. The Lutheran and Catholic are the leading church denominations. Guttenberg annually ships and receives large quantities of produce and merchandise. The bluffs immediately back of town abound in lead ore, and on Miners creek, within two or three miles of town, several rich veins of mineral have been discovered and profitably worked.

"*McGregor* is 67 miles from Dubuque and 229 miles northwest from Chicago, via the Chicago & Northwestern and the Milwaukee & Prairie du Chien railways. From the time of its being laid out as a town, and the settlement of the country west and northwest, it has enjoyed the benefit of an exceedingly active trade. One would scarcely credit a true statement of the marvelous quantity of grain and produce that is shipped via this point, did they not visit the town during a busy season, and, in person, see the streets crowded to their entire length from early in the morning till late in the evening with heavily laden wagons, four abreast, many of whose owners had come 50, 100 and sometimes 200 miles to market. Standing at the foot of Main street, it is no uncommon sight to see it so filled to its furthest extent and allowing twenty feet for each wagon and horses length (four abreast), we find over 1,000 teams for one mile alone. This is no fancy picture nor 'fish story,' but a fact that thousands have witnessed daily. Not only is McGregor a great grain market, but it is the principal depot for the supply of household furniture, farming machinery, wearing apparel, groceries and other commodities. The business of the place is by the following establishments: Six dry goods, three drug, three hardware, three stove and tinware, four book and stationery, six clothing, three furniture, one crockery and glassware, fifteen grocery, two jewelry, four boot and shoe, and five general stores. There are over twenty establishments for the purchase and shipment of grain, produce and game. There are three lumber yards, one planing mill, sash, door and blind factory, one gun shop, one marble shop, two bakeries, two fruit stores, five millineries, three real estate offices, five implement houses, one pump factory, two foundries and machine shops, five wagon shops, three photograph galleries, one grain

elevator, one brewery and three flouring mills. There are six hotels, one National bank and two weekly newspapers, the Times and the News. The McGregor Western extends westward through Clayton, Winneshiek, Howard and Mitchell counties to the state line, there connecting with the Minnesota Central, which is being built to St. Paul. The road is already completed to Decorah, a distance of 60 miles, and at an early date will be completed to the rich coal regions of the Des Moines valley. In addition to rail and river facilities, McGregor is connected with all points by a line of daily stages. The Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches have organizations. There are also societies of Masons and Odd Fellows in a flourishing condition.

*"Elkader*, the seat of justice, is a flourishing town of about 700 inhabitants. The scenery of its location is possessed of much natural beauty. The table land on which the business portion of the town is built rises gradually for some distance, when it breaks into a steep declivity on the right bank of the river, while on the east the bank rises more rapidly and higher before the table land is reached, which undulates upward to a summit of considerable height. Upon these undulations many beautiful residences stand, surrounded with grounds tastefully arranged and adorned with shrubbery and trees, many of which are of native growth. The river, flowing with a rapid current, affords a good and reliable water power, which is to some extent improved, a dam being constructed across the stream at this point. There is one large flouring mill, built of rock taken from the neighboring quarries. The trade of the town is flourishing, being represented by four general stores, one flouring mill, one drug, one furniture, one hardware and stove store, one hotel, one printing office, together with the usual number of blacksmith, carpenter, wagon and other shops. There are Congregational, Methodist, Catholic and other churches. The Clayton County Journal is published here.

*"Garnaville* is a post village and township in the eastern interior of the county. Shipments are made during the winter months via McGregor, and in the summer principally via Clayton and Dunleith. There are two good flouring mills and two sawmills on Buck creek, just east of the village; also one brewery, one hotel and several stores in the town. The village is located on a beautiful and very productive prairie. There are four churches—Methodist, Congregational, German Lutheran and Catholic. The lodges are Masons, Odd Fellows and Good Templars. The estimated population is 500.

*"Clayton* is on the east bank of the Mississippi, 10 miles below McGregor and 10 miles above Guttenberg. The site is partly a beautiful plat of ground between the bluffs and the river, but most of the residences are in a ravine through which the principal street runs from the river back onto the high prairie. The town is easy of access from the interior, and has one of the best steamboat landings on the river. It is the principal crossing place for travel between northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, northern Iowa and southern Minnesota, there being good roads on both sides of the river and a steam ferry boat crossing it every half hour, furnishing ample accommodation. The village contains two large flouring mills, one manufacturing about

20,000 and the other about 6,000 barrels of flour per annum; four general stores, four grocery stores, two cabinet shops, one foundry, three lumber yards and one stave and heading factory. About 130,000 bushels of wheat are shipped annually. Population 500.

*"Elkport*, a post village in the southeast part of Volga township on the south bank of the Turkey, at the confluence of Volga river, is 22 miles by stage nearly north from Dyersville. There are three general stores, one flour mill and two sawmills in the village; also one flour and sawmill and a woolen factory, Isaac Otis & Son, proprietors, within two and a half miles of the village. There is a good public school and two churches, German Catholic and German Lutheran. Population about 200.

*"Strawberry Point*, otherwise known as Franklin, in Cass township sixteen miles northwest from Manchester. The first settlements were made in this vicinity about fifteen years since, by Wood, Grannis, Stearns, Blake and others. It now contains about 250 inhabitants, with six stores, one brewery, one large flour mill, which runs with water power and was built at a cost of \$20,000, and three churches, Baptist, Methodist and Universalist. The Masons and Good Templars each have a lodge.

*"Monona* is on the McGregor Western Railway, thirteen miles west of McGregor. It contains two churches, five general stores, one drug store and one steam sawmill. Population 500.

*"Littleport* is a small post village on the Volga river, nine miles south of Elkader. It has one distillery, one general store and one sawmill. Population 75.

*"Giard* is in the northeastern part of the county, six and one-half miles from McGregor and fourteen miles north of Elkader. It has two churches, two general stores, one flour mill and one sawmill. Population 70.

*"Yankee Settlement* is in the southwestern portion of the county, eighteen miles from Elkader. It has one Methodist church, one general store and four sawmills.

*"Volga City* is a post village in the western part of the county, located on the right bank of the Volga river. It has two country stores, one mill and a hotel.

"Ceres, Communia, Council Hill, Cox Creek, Farmersburg, Gem, Grand Meadow, Henderson's Prairie, Honey Creek, Millville, National Road and Sigel are also villages and post roads of this county."

*Sidelights on Progress*—With this review of the county it is well to close the history of this war period, except to mention some of the incidents which bore upon the life of the people and the future of the county. Elkader suffered considerable inconvenience and loss of trade on account of the poor construction of the bridge. Appropriation was made for strengthening one end of the bridge, but by the time this was completed it was found that the other end was untrustworthy, so that an appropriation had to be made to reinforce that end. In the meantime the mill was not in commission and, as there was no thoroughfare to the market towns on the river, Elkader was largely avoided. Neither the bridge nor the mill were open to the public until 1863. In July, 1861, the county had a new attorney in the person of S. T. Woodward,



who located in Elkader and afterwards built the stone mansion which now overlooks the city. It was not until 1862 that it was voted to restrain sheep and swine from running at large, and then it was noted that posses of citizens had to be called upon to enforce it. In May, 1862, Judge Williams held court at Elkader, and the membership of the bar is given as Reuben Noble, Samuel Murdock, J. O. Crosby, E. Odell, B. T. Hunt, Thomas Updegraff, S. T. Woodward, C. F. Remick, D. Baugh, T. Beckwith, J. T. Stoneman, Alonzo Brown, S. F. Peck, A. J. Jordan, C. W. Richardson and J. W. Moore. At this time the trial of Livingood and Delilah Telyea, on a change of venue from Winneshiek county, for the murder of Telyea created much interest. The speeches of Noble for the defense and M. McGlathery for the prosecution were noteworthy, and the proceedings of the trial, together with these speeches, were printed in pamphlet form and sold for twenty-five cents each.

In October, 1863, two new postoffices were established: Sigel, in Reed township, with Mr. Palmer as postmaster, and Wagner post-office. In the same year the rush to California took the place of the old Pike's Peak craze, and many caravans started from Clayton county on the long overland journey to the coast. Two parties left Garnavillo in April, 1863. They were D. G. Rogers' company and Preece's company. H. T. Smart and John Uriell went with them. The two companies had, between them fifteen horses, eight mules and seven wagons, and were fully equipped for the overland journey. While there was much feeling between the Union men and the Copperheads, the only violence occurred in Mallory township where an attempt was made to break up the singing school at Pott's school house and to ride the teacher on a rail. Shots were fired and the school house was stoned, but no one was injured and no particular damage done. This disturbance was laid to the Copperheads, with how much reason is not known. In July, 1863, occurred the murder of a man named Schutte at Guttenberg. He went to the home of his former wife, a Mrs. Heller, and there was set upon by her two sons, who attacked him with an axe and knives and chopped him almost to pieces. There was much excitement at Guttenberg over this brutal murder. The many enlistments caused a great scarcity in farm labor and, in March, 1864, citizens of Farmersburg met to consider this problem. G. B. Wakeman was president of this meeting and J. E. Corlett secretary, and a fund was raised for the encouragement of foreign immigration to the county.

*Death of R. R. Read*—In April, 1864, the county lost one of its best known and most beloved pioneers in the person of Robert R. Read. The funeral services were attended by people from all over the county. Resolutions were passed and the following biography and eulogy was printed: "Robert R. Read was born Aug. 31, 1790, in Norfolk county, England, and emigrated to America in 1817, and first settled in Philadelphia. Here he first learned that, far away, towards the evening sun, across majestic rivers, and over lofty mountains, there was a widespread land, skirting upon either shore of a great river. Young, ardent, brave, daring, resolute and in the vigor of manhood, full of wild adventure, he turned his face toward the great west, and arrived on the banks of the Mississippi, in 1827.

"In company with Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin, he made his way to the lead mines, where they both made a settlement in what is now the county of Grant. At this time the whole of that vast and fertile tract of country lying between the Wisconsin on the north, the Kaskaskia on the south, and embracing the rich valley of Rock river, was but sparsely settled. Here and there along the streams clustered the few log huts of the hunter and the trapper, men who had early bid adieu to civilization and refinement in some far-off eastern home, and who by their acts were fast precipitating the country into a cruel, bloody and desperate border war. Others, as bold and daring as themselves, prompted by the prospect of sudden riches and wealth, had clustered around the lead mines of Illinois and Wisconsin. To expel both of these, that brave and daring old chief, Blackhawk, in the year of 1812, raised the flag of war and, for a long time, desolated this fair and lovely portion of the great and fertile west. Among the first, our old friend, Captain Robert R. Read, took up arms to defend the settlers. General Dodge commissioned him major of the Fifth infantry, Grant county volunteers. He accompanied that general throughout all his campaigns against the Indians, acting most of the time as one of his aides, and was by his side at the final battle of the Bad Axe, which terminated the war, dethroned Blackhawk and restored peace to the country.

"After the war was over he returned to his family to pursue the peaceful avocations of life; but he was not long here when General Dodge again commissioned him sheriff of Grant county, the county he had assisted in defending against the savages. That same love of adventure that prompted him from the first to encounter the trials and hardships of a frontier life again took possession of his mind. He resigned the office of sheriff, crossed the Mississippi and settled on the soil of Clayton county in 1839, where he remained until death closed his eyes forever. Soon after he came to Clayton county he was chosen clerk of the commissioners court, and it was here that his talents and ability as an officer were first discovered by the people of Clayton county, and which laid the foundation for that long and useful career of public life which he afterwards passed among us. At the time he was first chosen clerk, the financial affairs of the county were in a wretched state. Warrants to an amount which no one knew had been issued, no books had been kept, no records had been made, and everything which concerned the county was in a mass of confusion. He purchased records, traced out the indebtedness, restrained the useless and extravagant issue of county orders, and laid the foundation of the commissioners court on a basis that gave prosperity to the county. In this position, the most responsible of any in the county, he remained for many years, and until the board was abolished for the office of county judge. After leaving the office he was immediately elected treasurer and recorder of the county, and re-elected, again and again, as often as he wished. Sometimes he had the most determined opposition, at other times he would pass over the course alone. At last he declined a re-election, preferring a more active life, and he left the office regretted by all. But the people of Clayton county would not suffer him to remain long out of service, and they elected him

without opposition clerk of the district court, and here in this office we again see the master hand of business. But old age was creeping on him, a long and useful life now drawing to a close, and he felt his decline. Tired and worn out in the public service, he resigned the office and retired forever to private life, with more honors than fall to the lot of many men to wear."

*Minor Events*—Among the minor events showing the trend of the county are the following: In April, 1864, an effort to close the saloons and business houses of Elkader on Sunday created a near riot. There were but three butcher shops in the county at that time, on account of the high cost of beef; the fish story flourished, and one pickerel weighing 10½ pounds and another weighing 14 were speared by boys at Elkader. In 1864 it is reported that Postmaster Snedigar was being assisted in the postoffice by his two daughters, as both his sons had gone to war.

In June of the same year the McGregor clans advanced upon the court house to protest against the establishment of a ferry between North McGregor and Prairie du Chien. Reuben Noble argued for the ferry and E. Odell against it, and it was defeated by the board by a majority of one vote.

In August, 1864, a nest of thieves was located near Elkport by Sheriff Garber and his deputy, Melvin Hodgkins. A tailor named Schornagel was found to be selling goods at less than cost, and these goods were identified as some stolen from Dyersville and \$1,500 worth of goods were recovered at his house. The premises of a saloonkeeper named Mayer were searched and between \$700 and \$800 worth of dry goods were found in a manure heap back of his barn. At the home of Seels, a former saloonkeeper, jewelry to the value of \$1,000 was found in the bedding.

At Elkader an excellent school was boasted under the direction of Mrs. Bowers, who was described as a lady of rare attainments. Several small circuses had been advertised before this time, but the first big show was that of Yankee Robinson, which came to Elkader and to Strawberry Point in September, 1864. This circus consisted not only of acrobatic feats, but of panoramas and tableaux. It was about this time that A. Ringling, father of the Ringling Brothers, noted throughout the world as circus men, advertised that he would change the location of his harness shop in McGregor. It was not until October, 1864, that the big mill at Elkader was again ready for regular business. The building is described as five stories high. E. Wagner was superintendent, and the mill was owned by L. V. Davis and L. A. Beardsley, who had just purchased the Thompson interest and moved to Elkader.

In 1865 there were two destructive floods, one in February and one in March. The river at Elkader was described as being the highest ever known, and considerable damage was done along the Turkey and the Volga, while at North McGregor, Bloody Run destroyed the tracks of the McGregor & Western. During this year there was continued agitation for the establishment of a woolen mill at Elkader. The fact that there were no transportation facilities and but few sheep did not deter the promoters, who urged it for many months. The Elkader brewery was established in June, 1865. Of it the Journal says:



"Work has already commenced to erect a brewery on Bridge street near the bluff on the west side of the river. A Mr. Schmidt, residing near Garnavillo, is building it, and it is intended to be an extensive affair, and Mr. Schmidt is said to have plenty of money to build it. Judging from the quantity of beer annually consumed in this and adjoining towns, an enterprise of this kind will pay well."

On November 19, occurred the death of Mrs. Mary Lowe Price, the wife of Judge Eliphalet Price, a woman who had shared with this pioneer the hardships and deprivations of the early days and who was dearly beloved throughout the county. Of her the Elkader Journal says, "The large concourse of friends that attended her funeral at Garnavillo attests to the esteem in which she was held. Mrs. Price came here at an early day, when but few other women were in the county and her death will be lamented by those who knew her then. She was one of those indomitable persevering, truly Christian women, to whom society owes so much of its pleasures. In her death her husband, Hon. E. Price, has lost a faithful wife and the county a kind friend, for such was she to all. All who ever knew her speak naught but praise and all mourn her loss."

The last of the great fires visited McGregor in December, 1865. The blaze originated in the postoffice; twenty-eight buildings were destroyed and the loss estimated at \$100,000. In the columns of the Journal is given mention of the young men who are growing up to take the places of their distinguished fathers in the annals of this county. The debating society was organized at Elkader with Buel Knapp as president, R. E. Price, secretary; E. A. Crary, editor and critic, and P. C. Young, treasurer.

In November, 1865, the county poor farm was opened in Read township. There were eight inmates—six men and two women. There were thirty-five acres of land under cultivation and a garden of four acres was to be put in. It was expected to rent the remaining land at a crop rental of one-third. With this the history of the war period, both as to the war itself and as to the domestic affairs of the county, is brought to a close; and it will be seen that, in spite of the cost of the war, in men and money, Clayton county had not only held its own but had gained in wealth and influence and in all the elements of civilization.



## CHAPTER IX

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### RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD—1865-1870

EVENTS OF 1866—ANNALS OF 1867—DEATH OF ALONZO BROWN—DEATH OF JAMES MCGREGOR, JR.—INCOMES OF 1868—HAGERTY MURDER—RIVER TRAFFIC—COURT HOUSE—FENIANISM—HOP INDUSTRY—SOME ELKADER FIRSTS—COUNTY AFFAIRS—AMONG THE TEACHERS—TOWN PROGRESS—POLITICAL HISTORY—MERRILL FOR GOVERNOR—CAMPAIGN OF 1868-1869.

THE period after the war was one of reconstruction not only politically, but in industrial lines. The soldiers returned from the front, the swords were converted into pruning hooks and the volunteers, as well as might be, took up the thread of their own lives. After the excitement of the war the last half of this decade seems uninteresting but it witnessed a steady growth for all the county. The enterprise of the people, sometimes misdirected, but nevertheless energetic, is shown in many ways. In 1866 a stock company was formed to build propeller and flatboats to navigate the Turkey from Elkport to its mouth. J. S. Lewis backed this scheme and a Mr. Howard was the ship-builder. Charles Simmons established a new record by driving a stage from Elkader to Dyersville in seven hours and the people thought they were quite metropolitan. The growing wealth of the county is illustrated by the fact that, in 1866, three of the prominent Germans, having accumulated enough so they could, visited the land of their birth and Jacob Nicklaus, R. Meuth of Buena Vista and G. T. Weist of Guttenberg visited the Fatherland. In this year also the Farmers Mutual Fire & Lightning Insurance Company was formed by the Germans of Cox Creek and Volga. The executive committee was F. W. Hockhaus, Joseph Stich and Charles Cords and Louis Arnold was secretary. Values at the time are shown by the sale of the E. Price farm near Guttenberg for \$5,600.

*Events of 1866*—The most stirring event of 1866 was the assault upon a German farmer near Farmersburg by an Allamakee county desperado at which time Clayton county came its nearest to seeing real mob violence, for the German farmers organized for lynching purposes and would have carried out their purpose had they not been assured that justice would prevail.

In 1866 the county lost two of its pioneers. Jacob Nicklaus died on June 7. He was one of the Germans driven to this country by the



Revolution and came to Clayton county through the influence of the Western Settlement Society, in 1853. He made his home at Guttenberg and was active in the ranks of the Republican party, being elected treasurer and recorder, in 1859, and serving until January 1, 1866. He died at Elkader, when but 44 years of age. Of him it was said: "Almost every man in the county knew him personally, and none knew him that did not respect him. In his official duties he was untiring and obliging. He was honest, frank, and straightforward in all his duties and all agree that benevolence, honesty and integrity were among his cardinal virtues." Another pioneer to pass away at this time was John Downie, one of the early supervisors of the county who came to this country from Scotland, reaching here in 1838. He was one of the "war Democrats" who affiliated with the Republican party when the war for Union broke out. He left a respected memory and his descendants have been honored citizens of the county.

In July, 1866, the county was visited by a great freshet which did much damage to buildings and to crops. It is said that "Turkey river could be heard thundering a mile distant." The bridge over Pony creek on the McGregor road was swept away and stage communications stopped. At McGregor the main street was filled with drift wood and lumber and the merchants sustained heavy damage. In October the county was shocked by a number of accidents happening together. Edward, the 13-year-old son of Reuben Noble, was killed, being shot through the head while hunting. In Elkader, William Satterlie was killed by being struck on the head by refuse brick thrown from the top of Davis & Co.'s store; while, in Wagner township, John Wilkie was killed by having his neck broken in a fall from a haystack.

In November, 1866, the valuation of the county is given as \$5,351,844, a gain of more than \$1,000,000 within a year.

#### DEATH OF ELISHA BOARDMAN

Near the close of the year 1866 occurred the death of Captain Elisha Boardman, then sheriff of the county. Captain Boardman was a native of Vermont and came to this county in 1840. He was active in the enlistment of the Clayton county company of the Twenty-first Iowa and his act of bravery upon the field of battle has already been mentioned. He was very popular with the men of his command and he was elected sheriff by a practically unanimous vote. At his death H. D. Bronson, coroner, acted as sheriff, temporarily and the board then appointed James Davis.

#### EVENTS OF 1867

In 1867 a number of changes occurred in the Elkader Journal. Colonel Eiboeck retired and was succeeded by Lyman L. Ayers, who was editor for two weeks when he was succeeded by O. H. Mills. He left in another two weeks and, by February, Colonel Eiboeck was back at his post being urged by citizens of both parties who raised a fund for the enlargement of the paper which was done in May. The Journal

is careful to conceal the reason for these sudden changes but enough is hinted to show that there must have been a sensation. In 1867, there was another attempt to revive interest in the soldiers' cenotaph project. This came to nothing although there were many publications concerning it and Judge Price suggested that a lottery be held for the purpose. Later the board of supervisors petitioned the legislature to permit counties to appropriate \$5000 for a soldiers' monument. Clayton was one of the first counties to propose this patriotic action. The mill on the Volga river was built in 1867, by Reuth, Meder and Grotewohl at a cost of \$20,000. Mr. Flenniken was the contractor and millwright.

*Death of Alonzo Brown*—The county lost two of its prominent men in 1868, one of them being Alonzo Brown, who was one of the foremost educators of the county. Of him it was said: "A better man never lived in Clayton county. His education and talent placed him often in a position to serve the public which he always did cheerfully and without hesitation. He was the most unselfish man we ever knew—a true philanthropist, in the broadest sense of the term. Deeply felt will be his loss wherever he was known." He was the first superintendent of public instruction, serving in 1858 and 1859. Speaking of him, Mr. John Everall said: "At the time of his election he was comparatively a stranger and for his nomination and election, the friends of education were in a large measure indebted to Judge Murdock. During the war, he was elected president of the teachers' association and he was prominent at all educational gatherings. He was a provost marshal during the war. He did a great work for Clayton county in putting into effect the excellent school laws, formulated by Maturin L. Fisher, as state superintendent."

*Death of James McGregor*—Another death, at this time, was that of James McGregor. Mr. McGregor was possessed of strong character and was recognized as a man of force and ability. The law suit in which he was engaged for fifteen years, over the McGregor estate, caused him to be embittered and his interests were antagonistic to those of many citizens of the county, and thus, while he was respected, he did not have a place in the affections of the county such as was accorded Alonzo Brown or Mrs. R. R. Read, whose death occurred in November, 1867, not long after that of her honored husband.

The whole county mourned the death of Mrs. Read whose name was synonymous with hospitality and kindness. Regarding this couple the McGregor Times says: "In the year 1838, they halted upon the beautiful prairie about five miles south of Garnavillo, and here they reared up their children and made for themselves a loving home. To their dwelling the weary hunter and way worn traveler repaired to seek shelter from the storm and appease his hunger. The latch-string was never pulled in, and a hearty welcome awaited the adventurer at their fireside. Mrs. Read could not long survive her husband, and after a good long life, she calmly laid her head upon her pillow, gave a last parting blessing to human kind, and while her lips were articulating the last words, her gentle spirit passed away to meet, as she often said, her Robin in eternal bliss."

*Incomes in 1868*—That Clayton county, and particularly

McGregor, were prosperous is shown by the figures given for the income tax in 1868. Incomes of \$1,000 and under were exempt and the figures show incomes over that amount. As these statements were made for purposes of taxation, unless human nature has changed greatly since that time, it is safe to presume that they were not over-estimated. According to this report Joe Reynolds of "Diamond Jo" fame, had the largest income, it amounting to \$8,000 per year; among the others of considerable income were J. S. Beerbaum \$2,561, James F. Basset \$4,000, C. S. Bell \$2,350, E. R. Barron \$2,151, G. C. Cone \$2,135, E. Egbert \$2,091, J. N. Gilchrist \$2,515, W. I. Gilchrist \$3,103, William F. Hunting, \$4,000, A. T. Jones \$2,271, O. McCraney \$2,277, Reuben Noble \$3,005, Henry Reubel \$4,973, J. T. Stoneman \$2,280, Henry Webb \$2,414. With such incomes, on the modest scale of living then prevalent, it is no wonder that the attorneys of McGregor could tender Judge Milo McGlathery a banquet at which champagne was a prominent feature. A part of the exuberance of wealth of the time is shown in the project to dam the Turkey river to render it fit for navigation.

A prominent citizen dying in this year, 1868, was John Woodward of Farmersburg. He was born in Vermont and purchased land at National in 1848. He was a man of more than ordinary mental power, of unimpeachable character and of unflinching fidelity to his convictions. He served as Justice of the Peace but it is said of him that he settled almost all of his cases out of court. The only serious accident recorded during the year was when, in December, three sledge loads of passengers being transferred from Prairie du Chien to North McGregor, broke through the ice and a little child was drowned. The year closed with harder times and the merchants of the county complained of unsatisfactory holiday trade.

The last days of the year were saddened by the sudden death of Captain T. G. Drips of Clayton. He ate breakfast as usual with the family and went to the river for water for his team. Being gone longer than usual, he was looked for, and found dead, reclining against a board pile along the river. Mr. Drips was born in Pennsylvania, in 1820. He served with distinguished bravery as an orderly sergeant in the Mexican war, and came to Garnaville in 1849. He served as deputy sheriff and was for four years sheriff of Clayton county. He was the captain in the Twenty-seventh Iowa and made a good record, resigning after two years' service on account of ill-health.

*The Hagerty Murder*—In 1869, the Hagerty murder furnished one of the greatest sensations in the criminal record of the county. The circumstances of this triple murder were very mysterious and, but for an accident, it would have gone undiscovered and unpunished. While seining for fish in a small slough above Prairie du Chien, John Conners, of McGregor, drew up a trunk which was found to contain woman's clothing and several photographs of individuals in the north part of the county, among which were pictures of Mr. and Mrs. John Hagerty who had been living at Giard. It was known that a man named Thompson had been living with this woman and had taken her and her children to Wisconsin, but a short time previously. The finding of the trunk lead to further search and the bodies of the



woman, her daughter and her son, were found lower down the river. A cord was tied about the boy's neck and the woman was in a delicate condition. The story of the case, as developed at the time, was that Hagerty, who was something of a drunkard, left his family and joined the army; returning, he had reason to suspect his wife and he drank more heavily and finally abandoned his family. His wife afterwards lived at the house of Andrew Thompson. They were last seen in November. Household articles identified as belonging to her were found in the river in February, but it was not until June that the trunk was discovered and it was still two days later before the bodies were found. The relations between Mrs. Hagerty and Thompson had been the cause of much comment and after some investigation a writ was issued for Thompson's arrest. Sheriff James Davis went to the home of James Love, a brother-in-law of Thompson, but was unable to capture him. The sheriff then sent to McGregor for aid and a posse of citizens volunteered and searched the woods for him all night. Thompson finally surrendered himself to Marshal Bergman. A preliminary examination was held and the best legal talent of the county was arrayed on each side. District Attorney Granger, John T. Stoneman and Judge Murdock prosecuted, and Noble, Odell, Hatch and Updegraff appeared for the defense. The evidence was voluminous and Thompson was bound over and, later, three indictments for murder were brought against him. There were many delays in bringing the case to trial and it was finally heard in June, 1870, in Fayette county. Thompson was found guilty and sentenced to be hung. Appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, which decided that, on account of a flaw in the indictment, he could not be executed. Being given his choice between a new trial and a sentence of life imprisonment, he chose the latter and expiated his crime at Fort Madison.

*River Traffic*—At this time river traffic was in its glory. The three leading concerns operating were the Northwestern Union packet line with twenty-one boats, the Northern line with thirteen boats, and the Diamond Jo line with four boats. These companies employed 155 barges. In 1844 the number of boat arrivals at St. Paul was forty-seven, by 1850 it had increased to 104, in 1855 to 603, the high mark was reached, in 1858, when the arrivals were 1068. This mark was almost reached in 1862, with 1015 arrivals. The number in 1869 was 792. The arrivals at McGregor would be approximately double those at St. Paul, as the latter place was the terminus, while boats stopped at McGregor both going up and down the river. These statistics give an idea of the busy port of McGregor which had added importance as the headquarters of the Diamond Jo line.

Elkader was prosperous during this period. Nearly every issue of its newspapers note some new building begun or some improvement contemplated. On August 11, 1866, the Elkader post office rose to the dignity of a money order office and there were many other evidences of increasing importance.

*Court House*—One of the first actions of the board of supervisors in 1866 was the appropriation of \$2,000 for a treasurer's office, \$2,000 for a vault and \$2,000 for the transfer of the county records into new books. Later, \$3,000 was appropriated for recorder's office, provided

Elkader would give the site. This was done and Davis and Beardsley donated the beautiful lots upon which the court house stands today. The citizens also subscribed \$1,000 for a wall along the river front of these lots. This action practically settled the county seat question. Garnavillo made an effort to obtain the county seat in 1867, but the campaign was not vigorous, the western part of the county voted almost unanimously for Elkader and that city won by 711. The erection of buildings and subsequent legislation ended the long drawn county seat controversy.

One of the dreams of Elkader for many years was the establishment of a woolen factory and in 1866 there were a series of meetings for this purpose and committees were appointed to solicit stock subscriptions. It was proposed to sell \$50,000 worth of stock, the mill owners to take \$10,000, in stock, for a half interest in the water power. These meetings covered a period of months but came to nothing.

*Fenianism*—One of the interesting developments of the times was the great interest in the Fenian Society. There was an active branch in Elkader, meetings were held, one of which was addressed by Mr. Finerty of Chicago, and the movement had the support of the local newspaper. It is related that at one time \$50 was subscribed for the purchase of a Fenian flag. This money was forwarded to Chicago, but was returned, with the statement that the cheapest flag would cost \$100. About this time there was a call from the head of the order for funds to buy ammunition for the Irish revolutionists and the ladies used the \$50 for this purpose. A card notifying subscribers to this effect was signed by Cornelius Ryan who stated that any dissatisfied with this arrangement could receive a refund by applying to John Moran. This Fenian agitation died out within the course of a year.

*Hop Industry*—A new industry which promised great things in 1866 was the hopyard, started by L. V. Davis, who advertised for forty young and elderly women to pick hops at 75 cents per box. This hopfield consisted of eighteen acres and between forty and fifty were employed in the hop picking. The Journal says, "Some of our best ladies, married and single, were there, arrayed in bloomers, stripping the richly laden vines. We did not notice the costume so much as the bloom on the cheeks of the fair pickers, who were making from \$1 to \$1.50 per day." The picking season ended with a grand hop at the hop farm which lasted until morning.

In October, 1866, Elkader was pleasantly startled by three weddings in a single day, Judge A. C. Rogers performing all the services, the contracting parties were Realto E. Price and Miss Sarah Filetta Stewart, Orrin P. Stewart and Mary Young, and Thaddeus Maxson and Mary A. McLane.

*Some Elkader "Firsts"*—Sidelights on Elkader history at this time are shown by the newspaper approval of Father O'Beirne's efforts to stop rowdism; by a statement that there was not a sidewalk the length of a block in all Elkader and by the agreement among the business men to close their stores on Sunday. In 1866, appears the first mention of Mr. Bayless as a business man. The Freeman Lumber Yards opened in that year; the first express office was opened, with

A. W. Daugherty as agent, and the first advertisement of oysters appears in an Elkader paper. The first effort at fire prevention was made, in 1867, when the Elkader mill put in a \$1,000 pump and offered the use of it to the city, if the citizens would provide hose. It was in front of the mill, in 1866, that the first street light was installed, and at this time the mill made one shipment of 1,000 barrels of flour, by team to McGregor. In 1868, on New Year's day, Elkader gave a grand ball to celebrate the county seat victory and during that month Colonel Eiboeck published the first number of Clayton county's first German paper, *The Herold*.

*Fairs*—The Agricultural Society met at the Fair Grounds at National, May 18, 1866, electing James Parker of Monona president and J. E. Corlett secretary. Messrs. Merrill and Drummond addressed the meeting, stating that supervisors were permitted to appropriate \$1,000 to the society. This was followed up, and, in June, the supervisors appropriated \$1,000 to be effective when the society had ten acres free of debt. The fair held in October 1866, was described as the "best ever." The fair, for 1867, took on more of the nature of the modern fair; one of the features being Ormsby's Female Equestriennes. The McGregor band was employed and there were races and lager and wine. Mrs. Taylor of McGregor won the prize as a horse-woman and Miss Minerva Mathews was the winner of the race for lady riders. In 1868, James King was president and C. A. Watkins secretary. The fair was held in October and there was a good display, a feature being woolen goods of Clayton county manufacture shown by Otis & Co. W. S. Scott of Monona was president and Norman Hamilton secretary in 1869. The financial report showed that the paid admissions, for 1868, amounted to \$720.75. The association was then \$1,300 in debt. The receipts for 1869 were not large on account of rain, but \$600 of the old indebtedness was paid. In his report secretary Corlett describes the fair grounds and improvements as follows: "The society has beautiful grounds enclosed by tight board fence costing \$1,000; a two-story fair building upon which there has been expended over \$2,000. Also pens and stalls for stock, \$200. The ten acres cost \$900 of which \$500 was paid by 1869, not less than \$500 were expended upon the ground and buildings in 1867 and 1868. The entire indebtedness of the society is \$1,300, leaving the net assets at \$3,300."

*County Government*—Aside from the steps taken to build a court house the most important acts of the supervisors are to be found in the extensive appropriations for bridges. Three thousand dollars was appropriated for a bridge at Elkport and \$5,000 for a bridge at Osterdock. A good bridge at Bloody Run was also put in. The question of a tax for a jail was submitted to the people and carried and E. H. Williams, John Garber and James Davis were appointed as a committee to superintend its construction. In 1867, nineteen paupers were housed at the poor farm under the stewardship of August Millinghausen. The house is described as adequate, but the stable is of straw and the board was urged to appropriate enough to erect substantial buildings.

*Railroad Projects*—Prior to 1870, there was but one railroad in the county, this being the McGregor Western, but the map of the



entire county was overrun with surveys and proposed routes and it was a dull week when there was not a railroad meeting some place in the county. Judge Murdock proposed a road from the mouth of Buck creek to Garnavillo and thence by Dry Mill to Elkader and up the Turkey river to Otter creek and West Union and then "wherever it please." A meeting to consider this project was held in Garnavillo, in July, 1866. The following December, articles of incorporation were filed for a road from McGregor to Elkader, Cedar Falls and Des Moines. The incorporators were James Lawler and Joseph Reynolds of Chicago, R. L. Freeman of Elkader and Lindsey Seals of McGregor. Judge Williams also planned a line up Turkey river and attended a meeting at Dubuque to promote it. In 1867, a meeting was held at Guttenberg and resolutions introduced by Judge Price favoring the Dubuque and Northwestern. A survey was made down the river in 1868 and the McGregor and Western also surveyed a line from North McGregor to McGregor. In 1868 there was great excitement over the proposal of the so-called Forty-third Parallel Railroad to obtain a land grant from the legislature. McGregor was the storm center of this proposal and meeting after meeting was held with arguments pro and con. The majority at McGregor favored aid to the McGregor and Western rather than to the new company and this was the final action of the legislature. In 1869, meetings were held at McGregor relative to voting a tax for a line from Dubuque. Platt Smith spoke for the tax and Reuben Noble opposed it. It was agreed to solicit donations. A railroad convention was held at Guttenberg and that city subscribed \$30,000 for the Dubuque line. The Des Moines and McGregor line was revived and, in this, Elkader was greatly interested and sent delegates to a convention held at Waterloo. A survey was made from McGregor to Elkader via Sny Magill and H. W. Burlingame, the promotor, declared that capital had been secured for its construction if the various localities would contribute. In December, 1869, a temporary bridge was completed at North McGregor and the first through train went across. This bridge piled the ice above and left clear water below, so that McGregor complained and questioned the right of a corporation "to dam the river above us, and thereby damn the team business below us." The result of all these meetings was to crystalize public sentiment, but no railroad mileage was added to the county from the close of the war to 1870.

*Among the Teachers*—The return of many young men after the war, who were compelled to make a new start in life, gave added interest to the teaching field and the schools of the county were never in better hands. The Teachers' Association held a meeting at Garnavillo in December, 1865, J. Bell was chairman and the program included addresses from Professor Briggs and Judge Murdock and an essay by Miss Prince of Garnavillo. The teachers were appreciative of their fellow workers as is evidenced by the presentation of a chair to "Father Tremain" at Strawberry Point upon his return from Pike's Peak and the gift of a silver cake basket to ex-Superintendent Kramer. The Briggs Academy at Garnavillo was in successful operation at this time; J. Briggs was principal and Miss Sarah H. Prince assisted. Rev. G. M. Porter taught languages and Annette Huntley instructed in

music. The institute for 1866 was held at Guttenberg with J. Piper as director and throughout this period there was increased school activity.

*Town Progress*—In May 1866 the town of McGregor was stirred by the murder of Ira Pritchard, a trapper from Allamakee county, who was brutally assaulted and robbed. Frank Lienhart was arrested for this crime and the McGregor News urges the authorities to clean up the city and get rid of the many objectionable characters. The moral tone of McGregor improved, however, and the material advancement was rapid. There were many new and substantial business blocks erected and a number of churches, among which was the Methodist church, erected in 1869. One of the most important permanent improvements was the erection of the academy building. This was commenced in the fall of 1868, and cost \$20,000. A. J. Jordan was the supervisor and S. Jacobs was the architect. There were six large rooms in this building. At North McGregor, which was booming, Flemming Bros. spent \$20,000 improving their saw mill plant, adding a shingle factory and a gang of twenty saws.

Monona, also, was prosperous and, by 1869, the town contained three large churches with a fourth under process of erection. A new school house had been built at a cost of \$20,000 and Professor M. W. Baily was at the head of the school and in every respect Monona was a very live and up-to-date town. Guttenberg receives but casual mention from Elkader and McGregor newspapers, but there is every evidence that it was prospering finely, while Clayton was receding as a business point and the inland towns of the county were enjoying a slow but steady growth.

*Political History*—In politics, the larger issues of the war gave place to minor and more personal matters. The course of President Johnson relative to reconstruction became more and more distasteful to Republicans. This feeling grew and culminated at the time of his impeachment. As the Republicans denounced Johnson, the Democrats took him up, and before the close of his administration the peculiar situation was created, that the president was supported by the opposing political party and denounced by his own. This was in the day of personalities in politics and the Republican papers did not hesitate to call Johnson a drunkard nor did the Democratic paper fail to return the compliment by accusing Grant of a like failing. One of the features of the campaign of 1866, was the formation of a new party called the National Union party. This was composed of the so-called conservative Republicans who endorsed Johnson and this division among the Republicans was naturally encouraged by the Democrats. At the Republican convention held at Elkader for the purpose of electing delegates to the judicial convention Reuben Noble was chairman and Alonzo Brown was secretary. The delegates were instructed to support Milo McGlathery for judge and he was nominated at the convention held at West Union, July 12, and L. O. Hatch of Allamakee was nominated for district attorney. Thomas Updegraff was chairman of this convention.

The convention held August 18, to select delegates for the congressional convention was not so harmonious. William Hoffbauer was

chairman of this convention and J. E. Corlett secretary. A resolution was introduced instructing for William B. Allison, this was opposed by J. O. Crosby and Dr. G. W. Chase and was advocated by B. T. Hunt and Willis Drummond. The resolution was passed with but four opposing votes. Allison was renominated and stumped the county.

Samuel Merrill presided at the convention which nominated H. S. Granger for clerk and W. D. Crooke for recorder. There was a bitter fight for this nomination, Crooke defeating J. Oglesbee on the third formal ballot. Oglesbee, later, opposed the election of Crooke.

Although he had been the chairman of the Republican convention in July, Reuben Noble allied himself with the new party and he was nominated for Congress at a convention at West Union, which the Republican newspapers dubbed the "kangaroo" convention. Mr. Noble's defection drew upon him many bitter attacks from Republican sources. The Democrats nominated Robert L. Freeman for clerk and Mr. Roedemann, of Guttenberg, for recorder. The Republican state ticket carried the county by upwards of 700, Allison had 577 majority over Noble, Granger had 517 majority and Crooke was elected by 312.

*Merrill for Governor*—It was in November, 1866, that Samuel Merrill of McGregor was first proposed as a candidate for governor, by the Dubuque Times. In this connection the Times says: "Colonel Samuel Merrill of Clayton county enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him—he is a first class and successful business man—and well qualified to assume and discharge the varied duties of the executive chair." While this mention of Merrill was well received it was not taken very seriously by Clayton county Republicans at first. The Elkader Journal says of him: "Colonel Merrill is a good and strong man, but he is not the only strong man the Third Congressional District can boast. We urge that if there be any considerable opposition to Colonel Merrill we select and unite upon some other of the many able men from this part of the state." As late as February 27, 1867, the Journal is not sure that it would not be better to unite upon B. T. Hunt. A month later, however, Colonel Merrill's chances are recorded as being bright and the Republicans were strong in his support. Merrill was nominated, his Democratic opponent being Charles Mason. M. L. Fisher was a candidate for state superintendent on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Merrill received a handsome indorsement from his home county, his majority being 811. H. E. Newell for senator, J. C. Vaupel for treasurer, James Davis for sheriff, and C. A. Dean for judge on the Republican ticket were elected without opposition. M. E. Smith, Republican, defeated Carl Kostman, Democrat, for surveyor by 83 majority; for superintendent, W. A. Preston, Republican, defeated J. Briggs, Democrat, by 59 majority; N. Hamilton, James Newberry and P. G. Bailey, Republicans, were elected to the legislature. The question of prohibition was a live issue in this campaign. The people of McGregor were much pleased over the election of Merrill and showed their good will by serenading him at his home. In November Mr. Merrill resigned the position, as president of the First National Bank of McGregor, and soon went to Des Moines to prepare for the duties of his high office.

*Campaign of 1868*—That Clayton county was influential in state



politics, in both parties, is shown by the fact that the following year, Senator David Hamer of McGregor was the Democratic candidate for secretary of state. This was the presidential campaign in which Horatio Seymour was the Democratic candidate against General U. S. Grant. At the Democratic convention, held at Elkader, Professor Briggs presided and A. J. Jordan, C. P. Goodrich, Reuben Noble, B. P. Rawson and B. F. Fox were on the resolutions committee. Delegates to the congressional convention were instructed to support John T. Stoneman; A. W. Daugherty of Elkader was nominated for clerk and Dr. Paul Stockfeldt for recorder. At the congressional convention Stoneman withdrew in favor of William Mills, of Dubuque, who was nominated for congress. Mr. Stoneman was the Democratic candidate for presidential elector for this district. The Republicans renominated Allison for congress and Granger for clerk and Crooke for recorder. A feature of the campaign was a joint debate held at McGregor between Allison and Noble. After the election Colonel Richardson says: "We haven't official returns from anywhere, but this is true: Democrats can pay their debts with safety." The Republican majority for Grant was 831; for Wright, as against Hamer, for secretary of State, 852. The Republican county candidates were elected; the vote for a jail tax carried by 1,249 and the proposition to strike the word "white" from the constitution received 370 majority.

*Campaign 1869*—The year 1869 was filled with personal politics largely. Among the Republicans the contest raged about William B. Allison who had senatorial ambitions. Post office appointments at McGregor and Elkader had created considerable dissatisfaction and a Republican convention held at Elkader, July 10, presented the name of Judge E. H. Williams as a candidate for the senate. Other Republican nominees were Samuel Murdock and H. B. Taylor for representatives, Henry Kellner for treasurer, James Davis for sheriff, M. E. Duff for auditor, W. C. McNeal for superintendent, S. L. Peck for surveyor and H. D. Bronson for coroner. The resolutions, which caused such dissention among the Republicans and which were directed against Allison, read as follows: "While we are proud to acknowledge that the success of the Republican party has been largely due to its patriotic, free, and independent newspaper press, we unqualifiedly condemn the infamous practice inaugurated in this congressional district, of subsidizing and corrupting this, which should be the great conservator of public virtue, by the use of federal patronage to accomplish personal advancement." A. P. Richardson was the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor and aside from the Democratic and Republican county tickets there was a "Financial and Labor Reform" ticket in the field. This latter ticket, however, endorsed all the Democratic candidates except L. R. Gilbert for representative and Tim M. Hopkins for sheriff. The Republicans scored again at this election, Merrill receiving 511 majority. Mr. Richardson was given a handsome complimentary vote. All the Republican candidates

were elected, except that John Everall, Democrat, was elected superintendent by 884 majority. The race for treasurer was close, Kellner defeating Charles Schultze by 16 votes. It will thus be seen that in the four years following the war Clayton county furnished a successful candidate for governor and candidates for lieutenant-governor, secretary of state, state superintendent, congress, and presidential elector. No other county in Iowa has ever excelled this record in any four-year period.

## CHAPTER X

### DEVELOPMENT PERIOD—1870-1880

RIVER RAILROAD—NARROW GAUGE—VOLGA VALLEY LINE—DAVENPORT AND NORTHWESTERN—FAIRS AND SCHOOLS—POLITICAL ARENA—HAYES-TILDEN CAMPAIGN—COUNTY GOVERNMENT—COMPLETION OF COURT HOUSE—COUNTY EXPENSE—CHICAGO FIRE—SECOND GOLD DISCOVERY—CLAYTON COUNTY INSURANCE COMPANY—POOR FARM MURDER—DEATH ROLL OF PIONEERS—OLD SETTLERS' REUNIONS—FIRST REUNION—SECOND REUNION—LATER GATHERINGS—TOWN HISTORY—RINGLING BROTHERS—M'GREGOR EVENTS—ELKADER—ABD-EL-KADER.

WHILE the years glide into the stream of time, as the rivers flow into the Father of Waters, without perceptibly raising its level or increasing its mighty current, still, looked at from the perspective of later years, it will be found that there has been steady progress and that the tide of civilization changes in its characteristics and grows in momentum. It is also possible to see various trends in events and thus, roughly, to divide history into periods. In the history of Clayton county, after the first American settlements there were: First, the pioneer period; next, the period of permanent settlement; then, the fever of war and the renewed rush of settlement at its close; now, from 1870 to 1880, comes a period of internal development. The county became practically at a standstill as to population; the increase from 1870 to 1875 was but six. The "Golden Era" of McGregor ended in the 60's and the chief activities shifted again to the south part of the county, where towns sprang up and developed along the line of the Volga River Railroad and of the Davenport and Northern. It was a period, also, of large imaginings and, while many of these projects failed, they, nevertheless, show the indomitable courage and enterprise of the people. It was a time too of organization. The first struggle had been more of a man to man contest, now there were time and opportunity to enjoy the social side of life; thus in these years are found the beginnings of many societies. The Agricultural Society, the Sunday School Association, Church organizations, lodges and Turn Vereins flourished, while, in politics, the heated discussions of war times died away to be replaced by more personal, and it must be confessed, more sordid issues.

*River Railroad*—In 1870, the only railroad in Clayton county was the line from North McGregor through Monona and Luana and to the west. The people of McGregor had found that this railroad, instead of increasing their importance, had decreased it, but the enterprising peo-



ple of that city were not ready to acknowledge defeat and still entertained dreams of empire with McGregor a metropolis and they believed that the cure was to be found in more railroads, and the big men of the town, of whom there were many, interested themselves greatly in railroad projects. The Dubuque and Minnesota was one of the first lines pushed; S. T. Woodward and J. H. Merrill being directors. H. B. Carter, J. A. Hysham, A. F. Tipton, S. T. Woodward, Gibb Douglass and Timothy Davis represented Clayton county at the meeting held to organize. Donations were asked from different Clayton county towns along the river. The McGregor Times opposed this movement, but meetings were held and, under the spell of Judge Williams' eloquence, the business men of McGregor voted unanimously for a tax. As a result of this meeting an election was ordered, for June 1, 1870, but this was postponed for a month on account of an error in serving notice. A tax of 5 per cent was voted by a majority of 281. In the meantime, Elkader was also interested in railroads and, after an exciting election, a tax was voted by 71 majority. Guttenberg also voted a tax, but Clayton voted against it. E. H. Williams received the contract for grading the first thirty miles north of Dubuque and, in October, 1870, a celebration was held when the first ground was broken for the river road. H. I. Havens, D. B. Dawson, B. F. Fox, B. Schroeder, A. T. Jones and A. W. Burlingame composed a commission to fix the damages along the right of way. The work of construction was pushed rapidly and, by May, 1871, it was stated that trains were expected to reach McGregor by September 1; that contracts had been let for grading as far as Harper's Ferry and that men were already at work. In June it was announced that the rails had arrived and also the locomotives, the "William Andrews," and the "John D. Burt," for, in those days, locomotives, like steamboats, were known by name. There were the usual troubles of construction and certain contractors vanished over night without paying for labor or for ties. But, by September, 1871, the railroad had reached the mouth of Turkey river and it soon reached McGregor and beyond.

Although, at this time, all the railroads of Clayton county are parts of the Milwaukee system, all the various lines of the county were at first built by independent companies; thus, at first, there were no traffic arrangements between the road running west of McGregor and the road north, and it was some time before there were any friendly relations between the two roads. It was several years before the line to the west was compelled to build a spur connecting McGregor with North McGregor, and it was not until 1874 that the Milwaukee rented the Times office and fitted it up as a McGregor ticket office.

*Narrow Gauge*—One favorite project was the building of a line up the Turkey river. A proposition was made to Elkader that this line would be built to connect with the river road, for \$2,000 per mile, the right of way, depot, grounds, etc. A meeting was held to consider this and Messrs. Carter, Woodward, Price, Young and Garber appointed to solicit funds. The Iowa and Minnesota constructive company was formed to carry on this work, but the amount asked was too large and Elkader could not meet it. Another project was the Cedar Rapids and McGregor Railway, via Elkader and Manchester;

still another was the ambitious Milwaukee, Chicago, Cassville and Montana. This line was incorporated, with \$6,000,000 as the capital stock. The promoters of this line were E. H. Williams, James Hysham, Thomas Updegraff, J. O. Crosby, H. B. Carter and others and the headquarters were to be at McGregor. In the meantime, E. H. Williams proposed a narrow gauge railway from McGregor to the southwest, passing through Elkader. Many articles were printed to show the superiority of the narrow gauge line over the broad gauge system. The Waterloo and McGregor narrow gauge railway was incorporated. This met with the approval of McGregor people, and Messrs. Flemming, Newell, and J. H. Merrill went to Waterloo to investigate. Their report was unfavorable, but Judge Williams urged the matter and a further committee was appointed. In October, 1871, Elkader rejoices that the narrow gauge, thanks to Judge Williams, is assured and during the same month, Lee, Keenan and Flynn broke the first ground for the narrow gauge. A connection was made with the Milwaukee at Beulah but, before the line had reached much more than half way, hard times closed down and work stopped, leaving Elkader still without railroad connection. The road suffered severely from washouts and it led a precarious existence. Judge Williams persisted, however, and, in order to carry on the work with the least possible expense, maple rails were used, instead of iron, for the last miles of construction. In December, 1874, the McGregor Times states: "The Iowa Eastern (narrow gauge) has been completed to the mouth of Dry Mill creek and within four miles of Motor. A station house has been erected and Patrick Heendan is station agent. The work on the Motor extension is to be prosecuted during the winter without cessation. At St. Claf station, T. C. Peterson is building a first class elevator and, at Farmersburg, Ben Johnson is about to double the capacity of his warehouse. At each of the stations there are buyers engaged in the purchase of grain and produce of all kinds. From all accounts we are disposed to think that better days are dawning on the career of the narrow gauge, and taking all things into consideration, Judge Williams is entitled to praise for the tenacity and faith he has exhibited in his enterprise."

This optimism appears to have been justified, for, in September, 1875, it is noted that the narrow gauge has sixteen new cars. In 1876, however, the road was in difficulty and the supreme court rendered a decision in favor of Ole Nelson, who had supplied ties, establishing his claim as a prior lien over bondholders. Illustrating the speed of the narrow gauge, there was a lawsuit growing out of the fact that certain dogs ran along beside the train, barking at and annoying the passengers, whereupon Attorney Young stepped to the platform and shot and killed one of the dogs.

A year later the Elkader Register tells that the Iowa Eastern receipts for 1879 were \$14,174.74, expenses \$12,055. The company have sixteen miles of iron rails and 3.7 miles of wooden rails. The rolling stock consisted of one locomotive, one passenger car, two express and baggage cars, fifteen box cars, eight stock cars and six flat cars. W. C. Brown, afterwards president of the New York Central Railway was the first agent at Beulah.

The history of Judge Williams' struggles and failures and his never-failing courage and integrity is told in his biography given in another chapter.

*Volga Valley Line*—In 1871, agitation for the Volga River line was commenced and, in July, Volga voted a tax of 5 per cent in favor of the "Iowa Pacific." This line seems to have had good backing and it experienced fewer of the vicissitudes of pioneer railroading than did the other lines of the county. In November, 1874, a Volga correspondent writes, "We are bound to have a railroad at last; Daniel Green, the great railroad contractor, has contracted to grade six miles of the Volga Valley Railroad. He has secured the men and teams for active operation." The correspondent also tells of Volga City as it was before the coming of the railroad, saying: "Volga City is a wide-awake, enterprising town, with one flouring mill, owned by Henry White; two dry goods stores, owned by Hollister and Wetmore; a wagon shop, owned by Pardee and Goodwin; three blacksmith shops, one tin shop, harness shop, boot and shoe store and two hotels. The Methodists have a very good frame church, and one Union church, frame. There is a Masonic lodge, a Good Templars lodge, and a flourishing grange. Dr. McLane enjoys a splendid practice." This line was pushed to completion through the county and the towns of Osterdock, Elkport, Littleport, Mederville, Osborne and Volga became prosperous and thriving. Each town boomed, particularly, while it was the terminus of the line. The farmers hailed the railroads with joy and fraternized with the contractors and their men. There were balls and parties and banquets given by the citizens in honor of the railroads and, when the road was completed, this was reciprocated by free excursions to Dubuque.

The building of this road caused deep inroads upon the trade of Elkader and the Register says: "All are aware of the drawing off in the grain and produce trade by the extension of the Volga branch along our border and within six miles of our door. The effect is apparent to everyone doing business in this place. It is well enough to look these facts square in the face. To hold our own and build upon the foundation we now have is the question of the hour." The Register mentions two proposed lines to connect with the Volga branch either at Elkport or at Littleport. Later in the year it was reported that Judge Williams was making repairs on his road and expected to have a train running to the depot within a week or two. Elkader was not content with this service, however, and, in 1879, a committee was appointed to examine a route to connect with the Volga branch at Mederville. Garnavillo also had longings for rail connection with the outside world and at a meeting held in February, 1878, Crosby, Linton and Kregal were appointed to examine the feasibility of a line from Garnavillo down Buck creek and, at a second meeting, Judge Williams offered to extend the narrow gauge to Garnavillo, if that city would donate \$13,000.

*The Davenport and Northwestern*—The line through the southern part of the county, from Edgewood to Strawberry point, also met with difficulties. This was called the Davenport and Northwestern and, like other lines, was built largely on faith and fell into the sheriff's



hands. In 1879, William Larrabee, acting for creditors, seized the part of the road running through Clayton county and, for a time, there was no train service beyond Greeley. The Davenport and Northwestern was obliged to put in a turn table at the county line and the Larrabee interests operated the road from there on, independently. It was then rumored that the Milwaukee would take over the entire line.

The Iowa Eastern was the last line to fall into the hands of the Milwaukee system. After the flood of 1876, the track had not been relaid and the terminus was three miles from Elkader. In 1882, the Milwaukee took possession, built the line to Elkader, proper, and made it of standard gauge. No railroad mileage has been added to the county since that time, and all the lines are parts of the Milwaukee system. Showing the standing of McGregor in the business world it might be added that its railroad enterprises were not confined to this county and that, in 1875, it was a McGregor company, headed by Joseph Reynolds, which constructed a narrow gauge railroad into Hot Springs, Arkansas, and maintained it for many years.

*Fairs and Schools*—The agricultural association went through many ups and downs during this time. The wonder is that they maintained the struggle and did so well as they did. The year 1870 found the society with a debt of \$585, and it was with this handicap that it proceeded with its work. W. S. Scott was elected president and E. C. Hall secretary. The fair was held in September and was described as being a success. More attention was paid to woman's work and the ladies of the county responded with enthusiasm. Crops were bad in 1869-70, this was reflected in the exhibits. In 1870 the attendance was between 2,500 and 3,000 and this encouraged the officials. In the meantime a district agricultural meeting was called of the four counties, Clayton, Allamakee, Winnishiek and Fayette. The purpose was to hold a fair at Postville, and the success of this institution detracted somewhat from the county organization. In 1871 the exhibit was not so large and the attendance fell off so that premiums were not paid in full.

James Jack was president in 1873. The 1874-5 fairs were successful, that of 1875 being described as the "best ever." For the first time school children were encouraged to exhibit and this was a prominent feature of the fair. In 1876 D. F. Bickel was elected president and the secretary was G. H. Otis. They started with a balance on hand of \$128.70 and the fair that year was a great success with good patronage and a fine exhibit.

At the annual meeting held in January 1877, A. F. Nichols was elected president and G. H. Otis was continued as secretary. The fair was held in September and the attendance was large, the live stock exhibit was especially good and the society was able to pay its premiums in full. A reform wave struck the society in 1878, the old officers were re-elected, but a resolution was adopted prohibiting games of chance and the crying of wares on the fair grounds. A resolution to stop racing was lost. It had become apparent, however, that the fair could not be made a money-making institution at its then location and, at a meeting, in September, 1878, John Corlett introduced a resolution providing for the removal of the fair to a more central location. There

is no record, however, of any vote being taken and the fair remained at National. Weather was against them that year and the fair was prolonged one day on account of rain. So far as exhibits were concerned, the fair was a success, but the attendance was poor. The receipts of the fair were \$888.

At a meeting held in December, Sanford Ballou was elected president and A. C. Rogers secretary.

In 1879, the situation was complicated by the formation of a society in the south part of the county, holding a fair at Strawberry Point, in September. This fair was successful, with no rain, fine races, receipts of \$935 and expenses of \$887. The same good fortune did not follow the county fair, which, in spite of good exhibits, was spoiled by rain which prevented large attendance, but not the walking race, which was a star feature. The fair was unable to pay its premiums in full. Nevertheless the officers, S. Ballou and A. C. Rogers, were re-elected and the society started the new decennial with high hopes.

It would be unprofitable to give the program of all the many teachers' conventions and institutes held. The institute became a prominent feature in school life and as many as 180 teachers attended. Association meetings were held frequently, as were also township meetings. All these were helpful in increasing the efficiency of the schools. J. F. Thompson and John Everall were the leading and most popular educators with the teachers, and institutes were held at various points in the county. McGregor, Guttenberg, Monona, Elkader, and Strawberry Point built up strong independent school systems and the principals of these schools were drawn upon to conduct the institutes for the rural teachers.

*Political Arena*—Politics in Clayton county was a seething cauldron all through this period. Samuel Merrill, of Clayton county, was Governor of the state and he was urged as a candidate for United States Senator. In later years, Judge Wright is quoted as having said that Clayton county produced the strongest men and the best politicians in Iowa, and that, had they been able to work together, nothing could have stood against them; but, fortunately for the balance of the state, they were never harmonious. This was illustrated in the battle for the senatorship, when Senator Newell supported Merrill, Judge Murdock was right hand man for Wright, and Judge Williams and Major Drummond were supporters of Allison. Wright won the nomination and was elected. The Democrats accorded the honor of their nomination to John T. Stoneman, of Clayton county. Although he had opposed him in the senatorial fight, Governor Merrill appointed E. H. Williams as a judge of the Supreme Court. In many ways Governor Merrill proved himself an able and fair minded executive, so much so that, in 1870, the legislature of Iowa passed highly commendatory resolutions concerning him, these being introduced by John P. Irish, the Democratic leader, and supported ardently by the eloquent John A. Kasson. During Governor Merrill's term the important work of building the state capitol was carried on, and, while mistakes were made, there was at no time any reflection upon the integrity and ability of the governor.

It was at the republican county convention held in Elkader, July

27, 1870, with Frank Larrabee as chairman and M. E. Duff as secretary, that the name of Thomas Updegraff was first presented as a candidate for Congress. Mr. Updegraff was a serious contender in the congressional convention which followed, but W. G. Donnan was nominated on the tenth ballot, the vote being, Donnan 97, Updegraff 65, Larrabee 4. It was in this year, also, that Reuben Noble was nominated for Supreme Judge on the democratic ticket and John T. Stoneman was nominated for Congress on the same ticket. The republicans of the county urged Williams for Supreme Judge, but he failed to secure the nomination. The election of 1870 was a victory for the republicans by some 300 majority. Stoneman received a large complimentary vote for congress, carrying the county by nearly 100. For supervisors, O. W. Crary and P. P. Olmstead, republicans, were elected, and Michael Uriell, democrat, who defeated Henry White by 10 votes. H. S. Granger was re-elected clerk without opposition and R. L. Freeman had a majority of more than 300 for recorder as against Peter Karberg, republican. A vote was taken to increase the number of supervisors from 3 to 5, but this was defeated by 900, while the stock restraint law was beaten nearly 3 to 1. After the election which saw the change from one supervisor for each township to but three supervisors for the county, Uriell drew the three year term, Crary two years and Olmsted one. It was in 1871 that F. D. Bayless first became prominent in democratic politics and for many years he was one of the leaders of democracy. This was the year of the Allison-Harlan fight for the Senatorship and this created much factional feeling among the republicans. C. C. Carpenter was the republican candidate for governor and carried the county against J. C. Knapp, democrat, by 320. For state senator O. W. Crary defeated John T. Stoneman, and Louis Reuther and R. B. Flenniken were elected representatives over J. M. Hagensick and Rufus Richardson, democrats. Other republicans elected were G. Cooley, supervisor; Martin Garber, auditor; Henry Kellner, treasurer; James Davis, sheriff; S. L. Peck surveyor, and H. D. Bronson, coroner. The only democrat elected was John Everall for superintendent.

1872 was a presidential year and Horace Greeley was the opponent of General Grant. There was some party feeling, but the opposition was unable to make headway against the great Union general and Greeley was not popular with the democrats themselves. Grant carried Clayton county by 201 majority. Stoneman was again the candidate for Congress and defeated Donnan by 285, although he was not elected in the district. For circuit judge, C. P. Granger of Allamakee, afterward a supreme judge and recognized as one of the great jurists of Iowa, was elected without opposition. Republicans elected were Marvin Cook, clerk, over L. A. Mahoney by 176, and P. P. Olmstead, supervisor, by 235, over William Eno. Among the democrats, R. L. Freeman was successful for recorder, defeating John B. Meyer by 119.

By 1873 there was a complete political revolution in Clayton county. The prohibition question had entered into politics and the opposition to the republicans was known as the "Liberal" party. J. G. Vale, democrat, carried the county for governor, against C. C. Carpenter, by 431; A. F. Tipton and Alexander Bleidung, republicans,



were defeated by J. C. Rounds and B. F. Schroeder, liberals, for representative. Martin Garber for auditor, J. F. Thompson for superintendent and H. D. Bronson for coroner on the republican ticket had no opposition. Henry Kellner, treasurer, was re-elected over Adolph Papin by more than 700. W. A. Benton began his career as sheriff by defeating J. A. Hysham by 851, and Ezra Hurd, democrat, for surveyor, and M. Uriell, democrat, for supervisor, were elected.

The year 1874 saw an increase of the "People's Party" movement and the county went more heavily against the republicans, the opposition winning, by 582, on the state ticket. For Congress, L. L. Ainsworth defeated C. T. Granger, republican, both in the county and the district, and Reuben Noble, democrat, was given the splendid majority of 1,386 over Milo McGlathery for district judge. In the county, the fusion ticket, styled "anti-monopoly," elected R. L. Freeman as recorder, but M. Cook, republican, for clerk, and W. Thoma, republican, for supervisor, were elected.

In 1875, the republicans renominated S. J. Kirkwood, the old war governor, for governor, while the opposition ran a fusion ticket headed by Shepherd Leffler. Judge Noble held his first term of court at Elkader, in January, 1875, and he was a very popular judge. It is related of him that when he first was called upon to pronounce sentence, being more used to politics than to the bench, he sentenced the prisoner at the bar saying, "It will be my painful duty to sentence you to the legislature of the state for four years." The account continues, "Amid the sobs of the poor prisoner and the beseeching words, 'O judge, can't you cut it off a year?' were indistinctly heard from the bench the words, 'Penitentiary, I mean.' Returning from court, the lawyers undertook to ridicule this extraordinary sentence. When the subject was evidently exhausted, the judge, with a gravity that seemed to imply a rebuke of such trifling, said: 'Gentlemen, in reviewing my first effort on the bench I can recall but one mistake that I am conscious of.' After a pause someone ventured to inquire what that was. 'When I took back the word legislature and said penitentiary—confound these horse thieves!'"

The temperance question continued to be the chief issue in 1875, and F. D. Bayless was chairman of the Clayton county liberal convention, held in June. A personal liberty association was formed at Elkader, with E. P. Clark as president and J. L. Hagensick as secretary. Wholesale dealers in liquors were assessed \$50 for membership, wholesalers of wine and brewers \$25 each, and saloon keepers \$12.50. The liberal county convention was held at Elkader, June 19, and resolved against the prohibitory law. This movement seems to have made considerable inroads upon the republican ranks, for Thomas Updegraff was one of the delegates selected. The republican county convention made no declaration on the liquor question. The democrats carried the county by more than 300, electing Stoneman, senator; Mentzel and White, representatives; Benton, sheriff; Brown, surveyor; H. C. Hoxsie, coroner, and Isaac Otis, supervisor. The republicans, Garber for auditor, Kellner, treasurer, and Thompson, superintendent.

*Hayes-Tilden Campaign*—The election of 1876 had the usual ex-

citement of the presidential campaign. There had been a number of scandals in administration and the republican party was weakened. Early in the spring, L. L. Ainsworth declined to be a candidate for congress and Reuben Noble was suggested for the position, but refused to be candidate. Martin Garber was brought forward by the republicans of Clayton county as a congressional candidate but, on the 22nd ballot, he was defeated for the nomination by T. W. Burdick. By this time the Greenback party had become something of a force. It held a convention at Strawberry Point and nominated E. F. Gaylord for congress. In the democratic county convention, there was a hot race between Freeman and McGonigal, for recorder, which the latter won on the fifth ballot. On national issues the county was still republican and Rutherford B. Hayes, for president, received 40 majority over Samuel J. Tilden. Burdick was elected to congress, Cook for clerk, Schecker for surveyor and P. P. Olmstead for supervisor, were elected on the republican ticket; while McGonigal, for recorder, and Eberhard, for supervisor, were successful democrats. The presidential election was very close, both sides claiming the victory, and it was not for many months that it was decided by an electoral commission. During this time there were many charges of fraud on both sides and much bitterness was created. The McGregor Times, for the first time, used an election rooster, and McGregor celebrated the supposed victory of Tilden.

In 1877, the money question was paramount and the democrats denounced what was later known as the "crime of '73." The Greenbackers organized with A. T. Lawrence, David Hammer and W. P. Eno as central committee. In the county the chief fight was for representative, Thomas Updegraff and Alexander Bleidung being the republican nominees. This year there was a complete victory for the republicans and in the legislature of 1878 it was said that Clayton county ruled the state, for Stoneman led in the senate and Updegraff led in the house.

In 1878, there was complete fusion between the democrats and greenbackers, each having four places on the state ticket. Joseph Eiboeck, former editor of the Elkader Journal, and then editing the Des Moines Anzeiger, was the fusion candidate for state auditor, and while the head of the fusion ticket received 17 majority, the county complimented its old time editor with a majority of 227. In the republican ranks there was a bitter fight between the adherents of Bleidung and the supporters of Updegraff, who was a candidate for congress. Double caucuses were held in Cox Creek and the delegation from Cox Creek, Millville, Garnavillo, Clayton and Jefferson bolted the convention which instructed delegates for Updegraff. The congressional convention was held at McGregor. Cooley of Winneshiek, Donnan of Buchanan, and Updegraff were candidates. There were 326 ballots taken and Updegraff won. The feeling against Updegraff did not seem to extend to the election for he received a majority of 808, being elected by several thousand in the district. One of the largest majorities ever given a man in Clayton county was that given

Judge Noble for re-election. He received a majority of 2,113. During the next year he was tendered the nomination for Supreme Judge but refused on the ground that he had just received such a magnificent indorsement and did not feel that he should desert his post. Robert Quigley, republican, carried the county for district attorney, but was defeated in the district. The republican elected was Marvin Cook, clerk, and the democrats elected McGonigal for recorder and Scofield supervisor. The county election of 1879 hinged upon the question of economy, the democrats and greenbackers uniting that the salaries of the officers be reduced. John Everall was a candidate for auditor, agreeing to conduct the office for \$1,900, instead of the \$2,800 then paid. John H. Gear was the republican candidate for governor and both he and ex-Governor Kirkwood spoke at Garnavillo and the republicans made a determined effort to regain supremacy in the county. Gear carried the county by 474. The resignation of Noble as a candidate for supreme judge was not accepted by the democrats, but he made no active campaign and the vote in the county against him was 152. Martin Garber defeated John T. Stoneman for senator, and Gregor McGregor, republican, and John Van Staden, democrat, were elected representatives. The balance of the county ticket elected was: C. E. Floete, treasurer; L. H. Place, democrat, sheriff, and republican, J. M. Leach, auditor; P. W. McClellan, county superintendent; Hel-muth Brandt, supervisor; Charles Schecker, surveyor, and W. A. Penfield, coroner.

*County Government*—1870 was the last year under the old supervisor system and, in 1871, the new board, consisting of O. W. Crary, P. P. Olmstead and Michael Uriell, took the reins of county government. It was still necessary to lease rooms for the district court and the board rented the second story of Vall Boller's building, for \$500 per year, for the court and public meetings, but not "for dances and the like." In 1870, there was a red hot fight among the newspapers to secure the county printing, which was to be let to the newspaper having the largest circulation. Eiboeck, of the Journal, solemnly swore to a circulation of 2,760, the McGregor News claimed 1,447 and Richardson, of the Times, made affidavit to a list of 2,901. The next year the board passed a resolution intimating that they wanted the newspapers to get down to real facts and the result was that, in 1871, the Journal swore to 950 subscribers, the News to 690 and the Times to 1,010. This was an alarming decrease, unless some newspaper man was guilty of prevarication the year before.

*Court House Completed*—In September, 1876, McGregor filed a petition of 2,962 names asking an election for the removal of the county seat. A remonstrance containing 3,408 names was filed and there was a lively session of the board which lasted for two days in which the strong men of McGregor and Elkader were drawn up in battle array. The board decided that the petition was insufficient and the election was not ordered. The following April the board voted \$5,000 for the completion of the court house, upon the bond furnished by citizens of Elkader agreeing to erect a building according to specifications, for that amount. It was understood that the building would cost much more, but the citizens agreed to stand all added expense.



This was effected by means of a considerable sum subscribed in Elkader and the work was done thoroughly and in a workman-like manner and proved a good bargain for the county. The cost to the citizens of Elkader was about \$5,000 above the amount voted by the board. Thus was completed the court house of Clayton county, practically as it stands today, with the exception that, later, Elkaderites bought the clock and the county provided the tower which contains it, and large fireproof vaults were added.

The building, while not ornate, is substantial, well-built, light and airy and beautifully located. The vaults are large and fire-proof, and while it is hoped that some day Clayton will feel able to erect a court house worthy of one of the richest and most beautiful counties in Iowa, the present building suffices for all practical purposes. It was not to be expected that McGregor, which had but recently been dashed in its hopes of securing the county seat, should look with favor upon the enlargement of the court house, and the McGregor Times had this to say concerning it: "The county board, at its last session, we understand, made an appropriation of \$5,000 for the construction of an addition to the present building occupied by the officers of the county. According to the plans and specifications presented to the board, the new addition is to be 50x75, with a hall-way between the new and old buildings, 12 feet wide. On the first floor of the new building will be the clerk's office, front room 30x36, vault 8x26; the rear room, auditor's office, 30x36, vault 8x16. The treasurer's and recorder's offices the same as now. The second floor to be divided as follows: Court room, in clear, 36x73; sheriff's office, 21x23; superintendent of schools' office, 21x23, and two jury rooms, each 14x21, and hall-way of same dimensions as one below; the whole to be covered with a hip shingle roof. A number of citizens of Elkader take control of the erection of this new addition, raising a like sum with that appropriated by the board for its construction. These citizens, we understand, have given bonds in the sum of \$20,000 for the faithful performance of the contract into which they have entered, and have received the \$5,000 in county warrants as the nucleus of their building fund. We cannot object to Clayton county having a court house; in fact, we are anxious she should have one, and that right speedily, but to attempt to patch on to the present building is, in our opinion, about the most ridiculous thing the county can do. If we are to have a court house, let us have one creditable to the county. The county is amply able to build a respectable appearing and substantial building, one that would be, in all respects, worthy; but to add to the old one, never regarded safe, is, to say the least, an expensive luxury which will not meet with general approval." There were, of course, many other acts of the board of supervisors, but these relate chiefly to the matter of roads and bridges, and while of great importance they are too numerous and too much matters of routine to receive special mention.

*County Expense*—From 1870 to 1880 the expenses of the county remained at about \$50,000 per year. Of this amount approximately one fourth was spent annually for bridges. The county expenditures for this period were as follows:

1871.....	\$47,354.64	1876.....	\$62,399.59
1872.....	55,597.40	1877.....	48,991.70
1873.....	46,080.47	1878.....	57,008.27
1874.....	43,408.35	1879.....	50,736.06
1875.....	49,544.27	1880.....	56,526.65

It is difficult to give the history of the county as a whole except by mentioning events, disconnected of themselves, but, nevertheless, showing the general trend of the county and those things which interested it generally. The truth is that, whereas the towns along the new railroad saw periods of flush times, the county as a whole had settled down to a period of routine development. New things came, but they came gradually, old settlers passed away, but they went, one by one.

*First Base Ball*—It is in June, 1870, that the first mention of base ball is made in a Clayton county newspaper. The McGregor Times speaks of it and declares that "it is one of the silliest bundles of boyishness ever invented by people boasting intelligence. In a short sentence we beg leave to say the whole business is damn nonsense." Nevertheless, the Times was soon forced to recognize this sort of "nonsense" in its columns and it began giving lengthy accounts of the games. The first game which it records was one between the Quick Steps of McGregor and the Rough and Ready's of Harper's Ferry. The score stood 97 to 12 in favor of the Quick Steps. The Quick Steps soon tripped up, however, in a 10 inning game with the Elkader Turkey Gobblers. This exciting game stood a tie of 41 to 41 at the end of the ninth inning, but, in the fatal tenth, the Quick Steps secured but 6 scores, while the Turkey Gobblers strutted proudly from the field with 12 added runs to their credit. These first games of "organized" base ball were played in June, 1871. A great event of 1870 was the reunion of Iowa soldiers at Des Moines. The state furnished transportation and all the soldiers who could possibly get away attended this meeting.

*Chicago Fire*—1871 was the year of the great Chicago fire and when the call for help came this county responded nobly. A meeting was called at McGregor, \$273 was subscribed in cash, and much more than that amount was given in goods and supplies. The mayor and other citizens went to Chicago to tender their services and many citizens went to inspect the ruins. At that time the relations between the merchants of Chicago and the cities of the west were largely personal and that city had not so far outstripped the other cities but that they all felt on a par and had neighborly interest in each other.

While Clayton county made a gain of six in population from 1870 to 1875, the census of 1873 shows the loss of 825 over the 1870 census. This was accounted for by the large number of laborers employed on the railroad from Dubuque to McGregor in 1870. One of the new institutions established in 1875 was the Northwestern Steam Hoop Company, established at Clayton. This was one of the first companies in America to manufacture hoops by steam power. Poles were shipped by the carload from many points and hundreds of wagon loads were furnished by the farmers of the vicinity. The first mention of Charles Reugnitz, afterward, for many years, treasurer of Clayton

county, appears when he is spoken of as the manager of this concern. The fastest growing town in the county, in the early 70's, was Monona, and it advanced with rapid strides. By 1875 it claimed, with justice, to be the second city of the county in commercial importance. It was in the center of a rich agricultural country and its trade territory extended both into Allamakee and Clayton. Bismarck was a new town on the line of the narrow gauge, as was Froelich. Bismarck was surveyed in May, 1875, and it was thought that it would be an important point, but it is now no more.

*Second Gold Discovery*—The great sensation of 1875 was the discovery of gold at Strawberry Point. The first discovery of the precious metal, at this place, was in 1858, but, in 1875, the excitement was revived by the discovery of fine particles of gold in the ravine known as "Bushee Hollow" and on the Baker farm. The McGregor Times sent a special correspondent to the new gold field. He reported that every pan full "showed color" and fifteen or twenty specimens were obtained from three washings. The account adds: "It did not matter where the dirt was taken from, there was sure to be color as the result of the washing. We were also furnished with specimens of the bed-rock, sand, and with the little nugget that has passed through the hands of competent men at Dubuque. The work of building long flumes, or wooden troughs, has been completed and a considerable amount of dirt washed, with very favorable results. The gold is very fine, the largest lump being no larger than a pin head. A company has been formed, and as soon as the required amount of capital is subscribed, the attempt will be made to test the discoveries. Gold is found within a radius of a mile and there is hardly a ravine in which gold cannot be found." The Times report continues very enthusiastically, but, as there is no later mention, the company undoubtedly failed to make it pay.

*Clayton County Insurance Co.*—In 1878, the Clayton County Farmers' Insurance Company was founded with W. P. Enos as president and J. E. Corlett as secretary. This was just in time for, in July, the county suffered greatly from storms and floods.

In April, 1878, Corbett and Lovett's bank at Strawberry Point was robbed. The robbers were caught at the time, but after an exchange of shots one of them escaped. Sheriff Benton camped on the fellow's trail and by clever detective work succeeded in locating him in the Bloomington, Illinois, jail and he was brought back to this county for trial. Sheriff Benton was given great credit for this arrest.

In May, 1879, the first county medical association was formed. The meeting was held in the office of Dr. K. F. Purdy at Elkader, and the physicians present were: Drs. S. N. Bixby, M. M. Newman of Strawberry Point; J. W. McLean, Volga; T. M. Sabin, Brush Creek; J. M. Lewis and O. D. Taft, Elkport; W. H. Boals, Garnavillo; D. W. Chase, A. D. Hanna, K. F. Purdy and G. Wheeland of Elkader. This was the first county organization, but there had been a district organization for some time.

*Poor Farm Murder*—What was long known as the "poor farm murder" occurred July 4, 1879. This was the outcome of a long standing quarrel between two of the pauper inmates, neither of whom



were mental giants. John Simons was the murderer and Charles Schultz the victim. On the morning of the Fourth, Simons took his shot-gun with which he often went hunting, fired a salute in honor of the day and then went into the poor house and deliberately shot Schultz in the temple. Simon was convicted of murder in the second degree and sent to the penitentiary for the term of twenty years. But a short time previous to the shooting, Simon was arrested for an assault upon Schultz with a club, but was returned to the poor house on promise of good behavior.

*Enfield*—It is probably generally forgotten, but when the railroad was built through Strawberry Point, the town was given the name of Enfield by the company. The inhabitants did not take kindly to the change of name, however, and the Strawberry Point Press, in July, 1875, says: "Enfield is no more. This town is now known to the world simply as Strawberry Point. When the D. & N. W. pulled up stakes and left this section, Enfield ceased to exist, and the brakemen, on reaching this place, now yell out 'Strawberry Point.' The railroad has been re-christened the Delaware, Fayette & Northwestern." Two interesting items in 1879 are the leasing of the Motor mill by Gilbert Thompson, of Dubuque and Theodore Ponson of Communia; and the death of Fred Zeug, who was killed by the bursting of a hogshhead of beer at Kleinlein's brewery in Cass township.

*Death Roll of the Pioneers*—As the county aged the early pioneers, the men who have been identified with the foundation of things Claytonian, began passing away. The first of these notable deaths was that of E. Odell, who died in March, 1875.

*Elijah Odell* was born in Vigo county, Ind., Sept. 22, 1812, of parents who emigrated from North Carolina, and was brought up on a farm which his father, himself and brother carved out of the heavy Wabash timber of Carroll county. On attaining his majority he set to work to secure for himself an academical education, after which he entered upon the study of law with Hiram Allen, Esq., of Delphi, Ind., with all the ardor of his nature, and never for a single day, up to his last illness, did he abate a jot or tittle of his earnestness or zeal. He began the practice at Rensselaer, Jasper county, Ind., in 1846-47, where he was married, about that time, to Rebecca S., a sister of Thos. Updegraff. In 1852, he was chosen State Senator for the district composed of the counties of Jasper, Benton, and Warren, Indiana, and in this capacity served with credit and acceptability in the same assembly with A. P. Richardson. He continued the practice at Rensselaer until the spring of 1854, when, feeling obliged to abandon Indiana on account of sickness of himself and children, incident to that malarious climate, he removed to Binghamton, N. Y. A few weeks of the purer air of New York restored his family to health and himself to his natural vigor. At that time Daniel S. Dickinson, Balcom Birdsall and others of equal distinction were in active practice at the Binghamton bar. The business of the place was not extensive. Under such circumstances professional advancement by a stranger must be made by slow degrees. Nothing daunted, however, he opened an office, and in a single year accomplished quite a handsome business, all things considered. But, with restored vigor, his active spirit pined

for his native West, where more rapid headway seemed possible; and, having visited Clayton County in the autumn of 1853, and purchased some land in Monona and Grand Meadow for himself and a New York friend, and being convinced that this climate was free from malaria, in the spring of 1855 he folded his tent and hastened to Iowa with his family, after which time he was a resident of Clayton County, having lived successively at Garnavillo, Elkader, Guttenburg and McGregor, locating permanently in McGregor in 1858. Mr. Odell was not an office seeker and was one of the few among the leaders of the county who were not candidates for office. Politically he was known as "a silver grey Whig" and after the dissolution of that party he acted with the Democrats up to 1860. With the nomination of Lincoln, however, he joined the Republican party and was one of its leaders in this county until his death. In 1872 he was presidential elector for the third Iowa district and was selected to cast the vote of the state in the national electoral college. He died while still in the prime of life. He was a great trial lawyer and so intimate was his knowledge of the law that he was eminently successful before the Supreme Court. His death was genuinely mourned by the people of the county.

*A. J. Jordan*—In June, 1875, McGregor lost a prominent business man in the person of A. J. Jordan, another member of the bar who located in McGregor in 1858, although he first came to the county in 1854.

*Lemuel G. Collins*—The following year, in March, occurred the death of Lemuel G. Collins, a resident of Giard since 1851 and a member of the legislature from Clayton county in 1856. But a month later, in April, 1876, the county lost one of its dearest friends in the death of Horace D. Bronson. A sketch of Mr. Bronson, who was one of the earliest pioneers, appears in another chapter.

*William Thoma*—In July, of the same year, William Thoma died. He was at that time a member of the board of supervisors. He was born in Bavaria, in 1827, came to Clayton county, in 1852, and was for many years in partnership with C. W. Hagensick in the mercantile business at Garnavillo. He was succeeded on the board by P. P. Olmstead.

*Rev. David Lowry*—In January, 1877, occurred the death of Rev. David Lowry, at the advanced age of 82. Although he was not a resident of Clayton county at the time of his death, he was, in the early days, one of its best known pioneers. He came to Iowa in 1835, as a missionary and educator to the Winnebago Indians and was first located at the Stone House, on Yellow River, in Allamakee county. He was appointed an Indian agent and, for 15 years, devoted himself to the best interests of the Indians, doing all that he could to educate them, give them practical instruction in agriculture and to protect them from the whites who wished to exploit them and to sell them whiskey. Something of his labors have been told in the early chapters. He resided in this vicinity until 1874 when he removed to Missouri. In his day he was one of the most powerful men of northeastern Iowa.

Among those to die in 1877 were George D. Gardener, a brother of Mrs. Alexander McGregor, who resided in McGregor from 1850

to 1866, at which time he went to South Carolina with Hon. Willis Drummond in the revenue service of the United States. Another was Henry Reubel, who died at McGregor after a short illness. He was prominent in McGregor business circles, moving to that city in 1860.

William Schoultz was another pioneer to die in 1877. He was a Prussian by birth and settled in Garnavillo township in 1841. He and his descendants were among the most influential of the German citizens.

*Dr. John Linton*—No death affected the county more sincerely than did that of Dr. John Linton. This occurred June 27, 1878. Dr. John Linton was born in Breckenridge County, Ky., Oct. 5, 1811, and at the age of eleven years he moved with his parents to Logan County in the same state. Here he assisted his father in clearing up a farm, until he was nearly of age, when he was apprenticed to a tanner and furrier. In 1837, after he had learned this trade, he started to explore the county along the banks of the Mississippi River, and, in the spring of that year, he arrived at Prairie du Chien. Rev. David Lowry, agent for the Winnebago Indians, appointed him general manager of his business along the whole mission. For nearly five years he discharged his trust with the same honor and fidelity that characterized all his actions in after life. A strong friendship sprang up between Lowry and himself, which ended only with their lives. While Linton was at this mission on Yellow River the Government had the buildings and farm sold, and moved the mission to Fort Atkinson, and Linton and his brother Thomas purchased it. In this stone mission-house the first District Court held in Allamakee County met. Judge Grant, of Davenport, presided, and Noble and Murdock constituted the entire bar. In the fall of 1842 Dr. Linton sold out his interest in the mission farm to his brother and went back to his native State, and, in the town of Springfield, studied medicine with Dr. Poland, an able and eminent physician of that place. In the fall of 1844 he went to St. Louis and attended a course of medical lectures. In the spring of 1845, he left that city and made an extensive tour through the different states and territories bordering on the Mississippi, finally locating at Garnavillo. He spent the winter of 1845-46 in St. Louis, attending medical college, and then returned to Garnavillo in company with Dr. Burgess, a young man of finished education and brilliant talent. They entered into partnership, and established a successful practice. Dr. Burgess, however, was of a roving disposition, and soon left the country. It is said that he went to Mexico. After Burgess left, he formed a partnership with Dr. Andros, which continued with prosperity until Dr. Andros removed to McGregor. Soon after the gold excitement broke out at Pike's Peak, he made a trip to the Rocky Mountains, where he located several gold claims and made geological explorations.

In 1873, in company with the Hon. J. O. Crosby and Hon. William Larrabee, he crossed the Atlantic and visited the principal countries of Europe. He attended the great medical congress at Vienna. Toward the close of his life he associated with him in the practice Dr. Bowles, a young man of high professional attainments. His object in this was partly to give him more opportunity for study, his taste for which increased with advancing years. His death was mourned by a large



circle of devoted friends, and by it society lost one of its brightest ornaments, his profession one of its most eminent members, and science one of its most industrious and powerful intellects. Dr. Linton was unfortunate in his married life, and he and his wife separated; at which time he gave her a large portion of his estate. In his will he made many bequests for the benefit of Garnaville and of his friends. J. O. Crosby was administrator. The will was successfully contested by the widow after a long legal battle. In 1880, Garnaville publicly observed the second anniversary of Dr. Linton's death, and, at this time, prizes authorized in his will were given Garnaville students. Edward Kindsell received first prize, \$22.00, in zoology, and Aug. Limbech received \$11.00 as second prize. In geology, Chas. Fox and Edward Kindsell received like prizes. There were impressive ceremonies at the grave, the prize winners taking an oath to care for the grave of their benefactor for one year, when the duty was to fall upon the new prize winners. The estate became involved in litigation and there is no record of later prize awards or annual memorials. The decision in favor of Mrs. Linton was made in 1883.

*Fred Hartge*—In August, 1878, Elkport lost a pioneer in the person of Fred Hartge. He was born in Hanover, came to this country in 1833, and was one of the first blacksmiths in Dubuque. He came to Elkport, June 15, 1839. He found W. W. Wayman already here. Wayman had built a saw mill on the banks of Elk Creek. This property Hartge purchased, built a log hut and commenced work on his saw mill. Soon he found that the property which he had purchased was not that which he occupied, the mill being situated on other land. Then followed litigation between him and Wayman, both going and returning from Dubuque in the same conveyance. After considerable trouble, he succeeded in gaining possession of the mill property, causing an enmity to spring up between himself and Wayman. In 1846, his brother Louis came to him as his companion in the wilderness, both occupying the same hut. About two years after occurred the murder of Louis, which has already been recorded in this volume. Fred Hartge remained with his mill, enlarging it from time to time, and prospering through his own great industry and through the inrush of settlers to Elkport, which was located on the land which he bought from Wayman. He lived to enjoy the fruits of his labor, but his death was hastened by his over-taxing his strength that he might attend the old settlers' reunion held in June, 1878.

*S. R. Peet*—Edgewood also lost one of its best citizens in the passing away of Honorable S. R. Peet. The funeral of Mr. Peet was held at Delhi and was said to have been the largest ever held in Delaware county up to that time. Mr. Peet located in Clayton county, in April, 1846, on the county line. He was an ardent Christian and organized the first Sunday School in Lodomillo township. His home was always the stopping place for the early settlers. Nearly all of his old neighbors could say that they spent the first night in the new country at Peet's and that he had been a good friend ever since. Although a consistent, life-long Democrat, the Republican stumpers always made his house their home. So orthodox was his democracy that it is told of him that he was presiding at a Democratic convention

when it was proposed to endorse certain nominees of the Greenback party. Mr. Peet arose with dignity and announced, "The present occupant of the chair cannot sit as president if the convention is not purely Democratic." Hon. S. R. Peet was elected as a Democrat, to the general assembly in the fall of 1859 from Clayton county, and was a member during the passage of the war measures at the extra session, and took an active part in bringing the state up to its exalted position in the Union as a loyal state. He was one of the strong members of the Clayton county bar and his removal to Delaware county was regretted by all.

*John W. Potts*, who came to Clayton county in 1846, was another pioneer of the southern part of the county who died at this time. He entered land at the Colony settlement in 1846 and lived in this county until 1869. He was assessor of Clayton county and held the important position of swamp land commissioner for the period of two years.

*John W. Gillett*—A week later, in January, 1879, John W. Gillett was added to the death roll, another of the pioneers who spent his manhood days in this county and his old age in another. Samuel Murdock, who was the county biographer, just as Judge Price was the county historian, wrote a beautiful tribute to this pioneer, which was printed in the *Elkader Journal*, and from which we quote: "Thirty-six years ago the coming summer I met John W. Gillett for the first time at the Washington House at Dubuque, where we spent the evening together, the guest of the noble and the generous Jesse Harrison. It was during that evening that I learned for the first time from the lips of Gillett, of the rich, rolling prairies, north of the Turkey river, and stretching away to the northwest for hundreds of miles, and the glowing description which he gave of its wild scenery and enchanting beauty induced me soon after to come and see for myself, and, with the exception of two or three years of this long period, I have lived his neighbor ever since. When I first struck his clearing, I found him and his dog the sole occupants of his cabin, and with a cheerful countenance he bade me a hearty welcome, and, pointing to an extra pile of straw in the corner on which lay an old blanket and two or three untanned deer-skins, he said I could camp with him as long as I wished, free of charge. With the exception of the blooming prairies and the enchanting groves here and there interspersed through them, everything about that cabin, at first, looked lonely, cheerless and forbidding, but I soon found that I was mistaken, and that, instead of being lonely and cheerless, it was the home of the traveler, the hunter and the explorer, and that, as soon as the shadows began to lengthen and night was approaching, it was always filled with both tired and merry fellows, who were welcome to its hospitality, and who went their several ways in the morning, free of any charge. His untiring industry and energy always supplied that cabin with an abundance of everything that was good to eat, and even in that early time I have often seen in it at a time, a whole sack of coffee, a barrel of wild honey, several hundred pounds of maple sugar, great quantities of dried venison, dressed wild turkeys, with flour, meal and potatoes sufficient to winter a regiment of men, instead of one lone little man and a dog. He seemed to live and work for no other purpose but to entertain his

friends, and that cabin was known for hundreds of miles around it, and squatters living in the south part of the territory, although many miles distant, he called his neighbors.

He was born and raised in Accomack county, Virginia, and was a carpenter by trade, and, while quite a young man, he came to Jacksonville, Illinois, and here he worked for a few months at his trade, and then made his way into Missouri. The Blackhawk war had spread the news far and wide of a beautiful land lying west of the great river, and he made up his mind that he would be among the first to explore its wilds. He left Missouri, and in the spring of 1835 his eyes for the first time rested upon the high and rolling prairies of Clayton county. He selected one of the most beautiful spots in the county, and, procuring a yoke of oxen and a breaking plow in Dubuque, he turned the first furrow that was turned in the county. The Indians were hostile when Gillett made his claim and it required such nerve and courage as heroes are made of to build a cabin at that time on the extreme border, and within sight of the Indian camp-fires. At the time of his settlement, Prairie du Chien was something of a village, and Fort Crawford was garrisoned with troops, while Fort Atkinson was in process of completion, and all these furnished a good market for corn, oats and hay, and as soon as Mr. Gillett had raised a crop of oats and corn, he found a ready sale for them at a high price, and this very soon enabled him to live in ease and comfort and to keep up a rich table.

*Alexander Bleidung*—Just a week later occurred the death of Hon. Alexander Bleidung, who died in his home in Guttenberg, January 25, 1879. He was a native of Germany and came to Guttenberg in 1850. He was First Lieutenant of Company D Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry. He was elected to the legislature as a republican in 1877, and made a valuable member. His death came suddenly and he was in the prime of life.

*Maturin L. Fisher*—The death roll of 1879 was not complete, however, and in December the grim reaper claimed one of the most able men Clayton county has produced in the person of Maturin L. Fisher. He was born in Danville, Vt. His father, Lewis Fisher, was a Baptist minister. M. L. was the oldest of a large family of children. His youth was spent upon one of those rocky farms so numerous in that state. He must have been a studious boy, for he fitted himself for college in a single year, and in 1824 entered Brown University, from which he graduated in 1828 with high honors. After graduating from college he entered upon the study of law with Hon. Isaac Davis, of Worcester, Mass., and was admitted to the bar in 1831. In 1834 he was the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Worcester district, but was defeated, though the canvass was a closely contested one. In 1835 he was appointed librarian of the American Anti-quarian Society, which office he filled until 1839, when he was appointed postmaster of Worcester. He continued in the office during the administration of Presidents Harrison, Tyler and Polk, and was removed on the coming in of the administration of President Taylor. In 1849, Mr. Fisher came to Iowa in search of a home, going first to Davenport, and finally fixing upon Clayton county, purchasing a farm in Farmersburg township. Mr. Fisher was married in 1842 to Miss



Caroline Pratt, of Worcester, Mass. She died in Farmersburg township, this county, in 1862. At the general election, in 1852, he was elected by the Democrats to the State Senate, the district being composed of fifteen counties, having three Senators. His colleagues were Warren Lewis and John Shields. He was chosen President of the Senate on the sixteenth ballot. By his election Clayton county had the honor of seeing both the presiding officers of the Senate and House from her Representatives, Hon. Reuben Noble being elected Speaker of the House. In 1857, Mr. Fisher accepted the nomination for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, though not expecting an election, as the state had just been carried by some 6,000 majority by the opposition; but he was elected, and he has often been justly called "the Father of Iowa's System of Public Schools." In 1860 he was elected Commissioner of the Insane Asylum at Mt. Pleasant, holding the office for twelve years. In 1861 he was appointed, by a Republican Legislature, in connection with the State Treasurer, to negotiate a war loan of \$1,000,000 for the State of Iowa. In the same year he was nominated for Lieutenant-Governor on the Democratic ticket, but declined. The following year he received the nomination for Governor, but again declined, and General Tuttle was placed on the ticket. In 1866, he was appointed commissioner to build the hospital for the insane at Independence, and in 1870, trustee and chairman of the board. In 1872, he was appointed one of the commissioners to build the new capitol at Des Moines. Mr. Fisher had one of the finest libraries in the state, and was one of the best read men on every topic of public interest. His character was unimpeachable, and every duty was conscientiously performed. He died at his home in Farmersburg township, February 5, 1879.

*Willard Knight*—Again in April, 1879, was the county called upon to mourn the death of a pioneer and again was Samuel Murdock the eulogist. This time death's victim was Willard Knight. He was born in Franklin County, Mass., in 1814, and when he arrived at manhood he emigrated to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the lumber business on the Alleghany river.

From Pennsylvania he went down the river to the State of Mississippi, and located at Milliken's Bend. While here he cut the timber and assisted in clearing the farm on which in after years was fought the battle of Milliken's Bend. Not liking the climate he started north, and arrived in Clayton County in the summer of 1836. Not long after his arrival he located his claim, where he lived and died, and here alone he built his first cabin in the edge of a beautiful grove. In this cabin he lived alone for many years, with a rifle and dog as his only companions, and year after year adding to his improvements, until he had one of the finest farms in the county. For several years after he began his improvements the land on which they were situated was withheld from market as mineral lands, and the reservation included all the lands in Clayton County east of range three, west. One morning he arose, looked over his claim, and found that a part of it had been "jumped" the night before by a party of men who had erected a cabin on it, and were determined to hold it until they could enter it at the land office. As soon as he saw the cabin he walked over and

warned its occupants to leave, which they peremptorily refused to do, when he returned to his cabin, took down his rifle, yoked up his oxen, drove over to the claim shanty, took a turn round the corner with the chain and started his oxen, when down came the shanty over the heads of the occupants, who, seeing the courage and determination of the man, left and never molested him again. As soon as he felt able to do so, he brought his aged parents and several brothers and sisters to the county, and provided for them all. He was present at every meeting of the Old Settlers' Society, and took an active interest in all its proceedings. During the latter part of his life he seemed to think it his duty and mission to look after and care for any of his old companions of pioneer life whom he found in distress.

"Only a few hours before his death," writes Judge Murdock, "he called me to his bedside, named an old pioneer to whom he had furnished several hundred dollars to save his home, and said: 'When I am gone some of my relatives may distress that man; I know you will not, and I therefore put him in your hands. See that no one crowds or hurts him for my money.' For several days before he died he began to talk about every old settler and pioneer that he had known in his early days, and during his last moments, and when he knew that his hour had come, he imagined they were all in the room with him, and his last words were, 'Pioneers, old settlers, Dick Only, and all of you, good—.' But poor Dick Gillett and Dr. Linton had gone a few months before him, and were not there to bid him 'good-bye,' yet he thought they were and he was gratified." He never married, but devoted his whole life to the care of his brothers and numerous sisters, all of whom loved him with the purest devotion. He died March 16, 1879. He was one of the pioneers who never had a hankering for public office, but he was always loyal to his friends and ready to serve them. He was one of the best beloved of the pioneers.

*John P. Kriebs*—He was a Prussian and joined the Guttenberg Colony in 1850, and soon became prominent in the politics of the county, being one of the leaders of democracy. His name was closely identified with all the civic affairs of Guttenberg. He was mayor of that city, in 1853, and was twice elected coroner of Clayton county. He died in Guttenberg, August, 1873.

*Louis Reuther*, a native of Prussia, who came to Iowa in 1853 when but 20 years of age, to join the Communia Colony. He came to Elkader in 1855 and in 1867 he joined with Henry Meder in building the Mederville mill. The greater portion of his life, however, was spent as a merchant in Elkader. He was an ardent republican and was elected to the legislature in 1871. In 1876, he visited the fatherland and there is supposed to have contracted the disease which ended his life.

*I. B. Gates*, a man prominent in democratic circles, who came to Iowa in 1850 and resided at Pleasant Ridge, near McGregor, until 1871. The manner of his death was tragic, as he fell dead at the completion of an address which he delivered before a convention of the People's party at Anita, Iowa.

*Old Settlers' Reunions*—It is no wonder, with these many deaths, the thoughts of the pioneers turned to the old days and that they longed



to meet as often as possible and to form some association by which they might keep green the memory of the departed; preserve the history and traditions of the county and keep alive the friendships of many years. Eliphalet Price, then the oldest living pioneer of the county, was the man to whose lot it fell to inaugurate the movement for an old settlers' picnic. In a characteristic letter to the press Judge Price issued a "proclamation" which was filled with wit and pleasantry, as well as with a vein of serious regard. He ordered the pioneers and old settlers to convene at Elkader on February 15, 1872, and appointed a committee on arrangement as follows: Mrs. Victor Carter, Mrs. Timothy Davis, Mrs. Elisha Boardman, Michael Uriell and Henry B. Carter. Those having resided in the county 25 years and less than 30 years, were to be called old settlers, and those residing in the county more than 30 years were to be known as pioneers. A feast of roasted coon and corn bread was proclaimed and Horace D. Bronson was appointed as master of the feast. Robert Thompkins of McGregor was to be poet laureate and Henry Gifford, Clayton's pioneer preacher, was to deliver a suitable prayer "of the old fashion, Turkey river, common sense kind." This proclamation was dated December 21, 1871. This was followed by a proclamation by Horace D. Bronson ordering all the faithful to bring coons for the feast. These proclamations created much interest throughout the county and were followed by many suggestions, especially the one that summer would be a more suitable time for the reunion. This suggestion was followed and Judge Price issued a second proclamation, in January, 1872, postponing the reunion to June 11. He also reorganized the committee, making it consist of Mrs. Elisha Boardman, Mrs. Lafayette Bigelow, Mrs. M. Cook, Michael Uriell and R. C. Place. This committee met at Elkader and temporary officers were appointed as follows: President, Hon. John Garber; vice-presidents, Boardman township, Elisha Boardman; Buena Vista, R. Meuth; Clayton, R. Only; Cass, James Tracey; Cox Creek, G. L. Gifford; Elk, M. W. Lovett; Farmersburg, J. Francis; Giard, James Tapper; Grand Meadow, P. G. Baily; Garnavillo, J. W. Gillett; Highland, J. P. Quigley; Jefferson, E. Price; Lodomillo, F. C. Madison; Monona, P. P. Olmstead; Marion, J. C. Rounds; Millville, J. W. Gillmore; Mallory, S. V. Peck; Mendon, George L. Bass; Reed, M. Uriell; Sperry, Elder Whitford; Volga, John Garber; Wagner, George Walter; Orator, Hon. E. Price; Chaplain, Rev. H. Gifford; Poet Laureate, R. Thompkins; Marshal, James Davis.

*First Reunion*—The place selected for the first annual reunion was the beautiful grove on the east side of the Turkey River, north of the Counth building. Twenty coons, an ox, and deer were secured and roasted for the occasion. The following account of the affair is from the Clayton County Journal: "The 11th day of June will long be remembered as one of the most important and eventful days in the history of Clayton County. It was the occasion of the convening of the pioneers and old settlers and their friends of Clayton County, and they came not by hundreds but by thousands. From every nook and corner of the county delegates came pouring in, and even from the adjoining counties of Fayette, Delaware and Allamakee hundreds of visitors had come. Between the hours of nine and ten in the morning



all the several roads leading into town were lined with teams coming hither to participate in the festivities. Fully 6,000 people were here by twelve o'clock, and more came in the latter part of the day. There were four bands of music here—three cornet and one martial band. The first to arrive was Oc. Cole's Fayette Silver Cornet Band, which came Monday evening and favored our citizens with some of their soul-stirring pieces. The band was not complete, but, nevertheless, under the leadership of Oc. Cole, of the Fayette Times, it made excellent music. The next to arrive was the Strawberry Point Brass Band, which is composed of some of the prominent citizens of that place, and, considering the brief time of its organization, plays some very difficult pieces admirably indeed. The next was the McGregor Cornet Band, which is the oldest band in the county, and of course furnished excellent music. Then came the martial band of Highland, which is always welcome here, and never fails to stir up the patriotic feelings of our people, and which played especially well upon this occasion. At 11 o'clock the procession was formed on Front street by the marshal, James Davis, and his assistants, H. H. Barnard and A. W. Daugherty, and while not one fiftieth joined in the procession, it was much the largest ever seen here. On arriving at the Grove, Hon. Michael Uriell, chairman of the committee of entertainment, introduced Hon. Samuel Murdock as president of the day, who made some very happy and appropriate remarks. Then came music by the bands, when the president introduced Rev. Henry Gifford, who, in a very lengthy, but powerful and eloquent prayer, besought the blessings of Heaven upon those assembled. After more music, Hon. Eliphalet Price was introduced as the oldest living pioneer in the county and the orator of the day. Much was expected of the Judge, but more was realized; his oration was one of the finest literary treats the people of Clayton County have ever been favored with, and while the Judge has not been well of late, yet he delivered it in a clear and distinct voice. At the conclusion of his address and before taking his seat he called upon Miss Marion Murdock for the recitation of A Hoosier's Vest, which was responded to by Miss Murdock in her happiest manner. After music by the Strawberry Point Band, the old settlers organized a permanent society, with Eliphalet Price as President; M. Uriell, Vice-President; H. B. Carter, Treasurer; Joseph Eiboeck, Secretary. Then came the coon feast. The tables were laden with the abundance of good things, and the old settlers partook of them with a hearty relish. General sociability followed. Hand-shaking and congratulations were numerous, and a few hours were thus highly enjoyed by all.

"We have no means of telling just how many pioneers and old settlers were present, but think that out of the 6,000 people assembled at least 1,000 were pioneers and old settlers, including, of course, their children and grandchildren. The only pioneers, those living in the county thirty years and upward, who were born here, were William Walker, William Griffith, William Quigley, R. E. Price, Louis Cooley and Charles Howard. Of sons of old settlers there were several hundred. There was one remarkable feature about the celebration which is worthy of special comment, and that is the general good order, sobriety and good feeling that prevailed. Not one unkind word

was heard on the streets among all that vast crowd, and not one person was seen that showed the least intoxication. There had been thirteen policemen sworn in, but there was no use for them, thanks to the amiability of the old settlers and all others who were present. The fact was, everybody seemed to have too much to say to one another to cause them to drink. Men met here who had not seen each other for fifteen or twenty years, and the few hours left them for sociability they improved rapidly. As has been shown, the festival was an entire success, and we would do injustice if we did not give credit to those who worked hard for a week in making the necessary arrangements. To R. C. Place, L. A. Mahoney, G. W. Cook and T. G. Price belong the thanks."

At a meeting of the old settlers in Elkader, May 21, 1873, Hon. M. L. Fisher was chosen Chairman, and F. D. Bayless, Secretary. Judge Williams, Judge Rogers and J. W. Shannon were appointed a committee to draft a constitution for the government of the society.

At the close of the reunion, Samuel Murdock was elected president for the ensuing year, John Everall, secretary, and A. C. Rogers treasurer. Rev. Henry Gifford and Rev. Elisha Warner were selected as chaplains. Hon. Reuben Noble was invited to deliver the address, and the next meeting was set for McGregor on July 4, 1873. The pioneers of Crawford county, Wisconsin, were invited to attend.

*The Second Reunion*—McGregor made great preparations for the second reunion. Cambrian Hall was engaged, the railroad gave reduced rates and the ferryboat "City of McGregor" met the trains at North McGregor. Gregor McGregor was chairman of the local committee and a dance invitation was issued using the picture of a coon, which became the insignia of the pioneers.

Cambrian Hall was well filled when President Murdock called the meeting to order. Rev. Elisha Warner was an honored guest and he told some of the stories of olden times. Among his anecdotes was one that, when a pony was lost or stolen, it was sure to be found in "Pony Hollow." Hon. Reuben Noble made a brief address, stating among other things that "While many of the old settlers of Clayton county are dead, yet such was the vigor of constitution of the early settlers of the county, that of the 75 to 100 settlers of 30 years' standing more than one half survive."

Rev. William Fawcett delivered an able address and he was followed by Orlando McCraney, as the oldest resident of Iowa present. The officers of the association were re-elected unanimously and Elkader was selected as the next place of meeting.

*Later Gatherings*—With this auspicious start the meetings of the association continued from year to year without interruption. They grew to be the great annual event of county, were attended by large crowds and shared in public popularity with the county fair and the Fourth of July. For the pioneers they meant more than any other day of all the year. The reunion of 1874 was held at Garnaville and two brass bands headed the procession. President Samuel Murdock presided, and, as Hon. Reuben Noble, orator of the day, was unable to be present, Mr. Murdock delivered the address. The officers were re-elected with the exception of chaplain, to which office Rev. N. W.



Bixby was chosen. The day ended with an old time dance led by Messrs. Bronson, Cooley, Paddleford and Jones.

Guttenberg was the scene of the 1875 reunion. Samuel Murdock retired from the presidency and the following officers were elected: President, S. D. Peck; secretary, John Walter; treasurer, Michael Uriell. Resolutions were passed thanking Judge Murdock for his services as president and he delivered the address of the day. The centennial reunion was also held at Guttenberg, June 10, 1876. There was a parade and an extra large crowd. S. D. Peck presided and Samuel Murdock was again the orator. Other speakers were Judge David Wilson, of Dubuque, Orlando McGraney and S. H. F. Schulte. The officers elected were: President, William Sullivan; secretary, Alvah Rogers; treasurer, John Walter.

Not less than 2,000 people, from all parts of the county, attended the sixth reunion, which was held at Elkader, August 23, 1877. Capt. W. A. Benton, assisted by H. H. Barnard, was marshal of the day. Judge Murdock delivered the address and Henry Gifford acted as chaplain. A feature of the day was the talk by E. Dickens, one of the first pioneers, who told many amusing incidents of the early days. Frederick Hartge was elected president and Alvah Rogers secretary.

Elkport was fairly swamped with visitors at the seventh reunion, held June 11, 1878. The citizens of the south part of the county, especially, turning out in large numbers. A feast had been prepared for the honored guests, and the usual parade. Judge Murdock, who had come to be regarded as the accepted orator for these occasions, was the speaker. The officers chosen were Michael Uriell, president, and A. C. Rogers, secretary. Nearly 200 pioneers were registered at this meeting. June 11, 1879, the reunion was held at Guttenberg. J. H. Stahl, as marshal, led the parade in which the pioneers marched first, then the old settlers and then the citizens generally. For the first time Samuel Murdock was unable to be present and J. O. Crosby was the orator of the day. Michael Uriell made a brief talk and other speakers were J. H. Bowman of Colesburg and E. P. Moore, one of the founders of Monona. P. P. Olmstead was elected president; James Uriell, vice-president, and George H. Otis, secretary. Although it had been voted to hold the reunion at McGregor, the gathering for 1880 was held at Garnavillo and the people of this historic town gave the pioneers a cordial welcome. The streets were gaily decorated with evergreens and banners. The honored guest was Judge Thomas S. Wilson, the pioneer judge of the county, who came from Dubuque to meet with his old friends in Clayton county. There was an exceptionally fine parade and P. P. Olmstead presided, Rev. William Cummings acted as chaplain, and the oration of the day was delivered by Judge Wilson. Another feature was an address in German by Dr. William Hoffbauer of Guttenberg. Frank Schoulte of National also spoke. The officers were re-elected, except that S. H. Shoulte was made secretary and S. D. Peck treasurer. While stress of weather had compelled a change of date on some years, June 11 had come to be accepted as Pioneer Day, and by 1880 the association had grown to be one of the most potent factors in the life of the county.



*McGregor*—While the “Golden Era” of McGregor is said to have ended in 1866, it was still a very lively place, easily maintaining its position as the largest and most important business point in the county. The figures of stock shipment and the amount of grain handled are staggering, and the two towns, which were rapidly becoming as one, easily led all northeastern Iowa. As a river and railroad center it had a distinctive population and was more metropolitan than the remainder of the county, as it came much more in touch with the outside world. There were many men who enjoyed considerable income and who did large business and the life of this city differed from that of any other part of the county. For instance, McGregor became noted as the home of fine horses. There was a driving association and horses owned and bred at McGregor were noted throughout the country. The fact that it was the railroad terminus and the headquarters of the Diamond Jo enterprises was, alone, sufficient to make it a place of importance. The Flemming mill at North McGregor was a large enterprise which in 1870 was enlarged, making it one of the most extensive mills on the river. This mill had four boilers, three engines, thirty-two saws and employed fifty men, turning out 40,000 feet of lumber daily, beside much dimension lumber. In April, 1870, the Mississippi was the highest that it had been since 1828, exceeding the floods of 1858 and 1866, North McGregor and Prairie du Chien were under water. Passenger trains stopped two miles east of Prairie du Chien and ferry boats went up Bloody Run to the railroad round house.

The city was much interested in the proposed ship canal to connect the lakes and the Mississippi by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. Meetings were held and committees were sent and, for a time, it looked as if there might be considerable traffic developed from Wisconsin points. In June, 1870, the steamer “Lawson” arrived at McGregor with a cargo from Appleton, Wis., and the “Energy” docked at Clayton with a cargo from Oshkosh.

The fire fiend seemed to have a special spite against McGregor. In June, 1870, there was a \$30,000 fire which led to the establishment of the first hook and ladder company. A year later the great Flemming saw mill at North McGregor was consumed with a loss of \$125,000, and, in October, of the same year, the railroad elevator and Kellogg’s mill were burned with a loss of \$50,000. In this fire the beautiful monument to Alexander McGregor was destroyed. It had not been unloaded from the car and the great heat caused it to burst into fragments. The Flemming mill was rebuilt and, in October, 1871, Stauer and Daubenberger began the erection of a saw mill at McGregor. The development of the town and the fact that it was fast outgrowing pioneer days is evidenced by the fact that in 1873 the old No. 1 warehouse, erected in 1851, was torn down to make way for a more modern building. The Larrabee interests had for some time been engaged in the banking business at McGregor, and in 1873, Frank Larrabee moved to McGregor, beginning a long career of influence and importance to the community. During these days McGregor had the distinguished honor of furnishing the governor of Iowa and it was in recognition of this fact that the palatial steamboat, 255 feet long, of

the Diamond Jo line was christened the "Samuel Merrill." By 1873, the Flemming Bros. mill was again in operation and it is recorded that Artemus Lamb, of Clinton, brought down the river, for the Flemming Bros., the largest raft then known upon the Mississippi waters. This raft contained twenty strings and covered about five acres. It was 335 feet wide, 510 feet long and contained 1,300,000 feet of lumber. No oars were used and it was controlled by the steamboat with a crew of eight men.

In 1874, the total trade of McGregor amounted to \$15,631,988.10. This large business was divided as follows: Wheat and produce, \$3,905,284.63; banking and exchange, \$8,218,314.44; wholesale, \$1,471,000; retail, \$2,864,630.92; manufacturing and lumber, \$706,642.89. No other towns in this region, except Dubuque and St. Paul, could boast larger clearings. An enterprise which should be mentioned was the carriage works of G. Hawley & Co. This factory was noted throughout the United States for its fine work and orders for expensive vehicles, where the best workmanship was required, came from all over the country. In 1875, the city was again visited with a disastrous fire, at which time appeals were sent to Prairie du Chien and Dubuque for aid.

*Ringling Bros. First Show*—In the early 70s there lived in McGregor, a family of six brothers, named Ringling. The father ran a harness and saddle shop. He was an expert workman, noted particularly for his fine saddles. One of his masterpieces was a beautiful and expensive saddle ordered from him by John Buell, of New York. There were many circuses in those days, all of them traveling overland and few of them carrying a menagerie. Barnum was abroad in the land and was giving the people their first lesson in that great American institution, the circus. The Ringling boys undoubtedly attended the overland circuses and the boat shows which came to McGregor and, in some way, Al, as the ringleader of the boys got it into his head that he would like to have a show of his own. Many are still living in McGregor who remember the first performance of Ringling Bros. circus. One of these has contributed the following account of the beginning of the career of these kings of the big top, who are now said to own and control all the great circuses of America. Their cousins, the Gollmar Brothers, entered the business later, being attracted by the success attained by the Ringlings. The following is the account of the first Ringling Bros. show: "About forty years ago there resided in this same town, McGregor, Iowa, a firm in the harness business known as the Ringling Bros. The firm was composed of quiet young fellows of apparently mediocre business ability, and the last fellows on earth one would suspect of being afflicted, not with the hook worm, but with the show worm. But they were, nevertheless, and what gets into the heart of a fellow is sure to crop out. That is the reason why they gave their first show and that it happened in McGregor, was because they were then here. On a vacant lot in the rear of S. J. Peterson's drug store, they pitched their first tent. It was fully thirty-five feet in diameter, and well filled. There were three star performers—just three and no more. Two were on the parallel bars, but Al Ringling was the star. He balanced a big plow on his

chin, which he borrowed from Lon Boyle for that special occasion. The exhibition was limited to one performance, and this in the evening. The orchestra was made up of one fiddle. George Williams was the one member of the band and he knew one tune. This he played over and over and when he had finished the audience invariably demanded the second verse, but there was no second—it was all first. George was the local plasterer as well as the violinist. There are men in town who can yet whistle that same tune.

"The show went from here to Prairie du Chien. Three flat boats carried the complete aggregation—boats about the size of those now used for clamming, and they rowed across the river. Who would ever imagine that this was the beginning of the world's greatest shows? The harness shop owned by the Ringlings stood where the photograph gallery is now located. The tent was held in place by ropes contributed from clothes lines from the neighbors' backyards. The writer knows whereof he speaks for he got in the show on a pass for contributing these same clothes lines to the good of the cause."

A letter from Charles Ringling dated July 11, 1916, questions some of the statements above, although it is not disputed that the first performance, from which the Ringling circus grew, was given at McGregor. Mr. Ringling's letter is as follows: "The mention of the harness shop of Al Ringling at McGregor; this is an error. Al Ringling was never in the harness business at McGregor. August Ringling, Sr., father of the Ringling Brothers ran a harness shop at McGregor from 1860 to 1872. At intervals during this period several of the older boys worked in the shop, but only one of the seven brothers actually took an interest in the harness business. This was A. G. Ringling who followed this trade in McGregor for a time and also in Elkader and in Garnavillo, joining his brothers only after the circus had been established for a number of years. There were seven brothers in the family, (in order as to age) Albert, August (A. G.), Otto, Alfred, Charles, John and Henry. The first three have passed to the great beyond. The remaining four brothers, now the firm of Ringling Bros., were born in McGregor. While it is true that the brothers gave a number of amateur circus performances at McGregor, under tents made by themselves, and that they actually planned, while mere boys at McGregor, to own and operate a circus, they did not actually start their first professional show from this point. Though the first circus run by the brothers was small it represented some investment and the necessary funds had to be earned in some way. For several years the brothers gave exhibitions in halls and small-town theaters and from the savings of this business they were able in the spring of 1884 to start their first real circus. The first performances were given at Baraboo, Wis., and it was not until several weeks later that they appeared at McGregor."—CHARLES E. RINGLING.

*McGregor Events*—Among the other activities may be noted the formation of a citizens association in December, 1874, with Thomas Arnold as president and A. Chapin secretary; the enlistment of an artillery company under Captain Rowland and, in 1876, the successful sinking of an artesian well. The artesian well company was incorporated with \$3,000 capital, J. P. Patrick, president; E. R. Barron,



secretary. At 300 feet a flow of water was struck and, in December, 1876, a flow of fifteen barrels per minute was secured. This delighted the people, the ladies of the town gave an entertainment to secure funds to beautify the grounds and, later, the company with J. F. Bassett as president, increased its capital to \$20,000 and planned to beautify the grounds and to lay extensive water mains. April 8, 1876, McGregor was visited by a disastrous storm. This is described by the Times as being a "deluge," exceeding in violence the storms of 1860 and 1868. The property damaged was estimated to exceed \$21,500, the chief loss falling from the city sewerage system and upon Peterson & Ramage. Great boulders were hurled through the street by the force of the water and the parks presented a sorry sight, the grass being covered with several inches of mud. The loss to Peterson & Ramage was caused by their cellar, which was filled with wholesale drugs and groceries, being flooded. In 1876, McGregor lost one of its pioneer business men in the person of A. T. Jones. He was a Kentuckian by birth, went to the Galena lead mines in 1837, and landed at McGregor in 1849. At that time there were but three families in the place, those of Alexander McGregor, Andrew Teets, and Lafayette Bigelow. He established the firm of Jones & Bass, which, in 1856, was sold to Merrill & Barron. Mr. Jones remained in business in the city and throughout his life was one of McGregor's most prominent and helpful citizens.

During the boom days, when the city had visions of becoming a second Chicago, there was much municipal extravagance and the city plunged into debt beyond the constitutional limit. In the later 70's these chickens came home to roost and became a serious handicap to the town, although it did not stop public improvements for, during this time, fine churches were built and a handsome new school house replaced the old building. The question of indebtedness got into the courts and in December, 1879, a decision of the United States court was made of which the Times says: "Our city has a debt of \$60,000, of which bonded obligation, \$20,000 is illegal, and the bulk of the whole is in the hands of eastern capitalists. The debt was contracted when McGregor was on the top wave of a flourishing condition. By mismanagement and shrinkage of values, our city got into a condition of helplessness, because our state laws do not allow a sufficient levy of taxes to pay principal or interest. The first step toward escape from this predicament is this decision of the United States court. The next step will be an enabling act by the coming state legislature by which taxes can be levied to pay the interest and establish a sinking fund sufficient to liquidate our municipal debt. All this McGregor is willing to do and has been, as soon as the state law permits. This city has always been willing to pay her legal debts justly, and so strong is this disposition that members of the council have proposed to use funds that they had no right to, to pay the city debt." While disappointing to the hopes of those who expected McGregor to become a great metropolis, this period was one of which any Iowa city might have been proud.

*Elkader*—If Elkader had fewer "ups" it also had fewer "downs" than had McGregor. In 1870, there was rejoicing when the bridge was reopened and Elisha Boardman and H. D. Bronson drove across

in state while the people cheered. Business was good and the little town was growing constantly. The mill had established a reputation and was shipping flour direct to Europe. In 1871, it is reported, "Elkader has improved rapidly. Several residences have been built this spring and more in process. V. Boller is building a fine business block of stone on Front street nearly opposite the mill. When finished, it will be not only an ornament to the town, but one of the best business blocks in northern Iowa. The First National Bank of Elkader will soon commence a stone building near the mill, with law offices on the second floor. Two churches are being built, one by the Methodists and one by the Congregationalists." Under the head of railroads, it has been noted that Elkader made many efforts to get into touch with the outside world, both by rail and wire, and finally got connection through the precarious line of the narrow gauge. In June, 1871, high water damaged the mill to the extent of \$3,000 and put it out of commission for some time.

In June, 1873, the city lost one of its strongest citizens in the person of B. T. Hunt whose activities have been frequently mentioned in this history. He was one of the Republican leaders of the county and was one of that party's most eloquent orators. He was one of the county's staunchest Union men and he did much to arouse that enthusiasm which placed the county in the front rank for volunteers. He was elected state senator in 1863 and, in 1868, was elected circuit judge without opposition. With his death Elkader and Clayton county lost one of their best and strongest men.

The year 1876 was memorable in Elkader by the installation of the beautiful chimes at the Catholic church. This was done through the efforts of Father Quigley and they were ready to ring the glad tidings of the Christmas time to the people of Elkader. These bells, three in number, were cast at Cincinnati by the Buckeye Bell Foundry, and weighed 5,400 pounds, the weight being 3,000 pounds, 1,500 pounds and 900 pounds. The cost was \$1,800 and appropriate inscriptions were cast upon the bells, together with the names of the seventy-two donors. Eighteen hundred and seventy-seven saw the advent of the first street sprinkler in Elkader and, in 1878, the Elkader Register made its appearance, as a Democratic paper in opposition to the Journal. The Register was, from the first, a healthy appearing and newsy paper. It was established by George H. Otis and edited by him for one year when it was purchased by F. D. Bayless and run by the Register company. In 1878 occurred what is still known as "the brewery fire." The building was completely destroyed, but 250 barrels of beer were saved. This fire was followed by a tragedy, when, during preparations to rebuild, a wall caved in, killing Severin Hassler. The enterprise of the citizens was shown by the fund raised for the court house and the fact that there was a surplus which was devoted, in 1878, to the installation of Elkader's first water works. Following the installation of the water works a fire company was formed which had an abbreviated uniform described as "consisting of a belt, cap and red woolen shirt." The company had its first tryout at a fire at Gilbert Bros. photograph gallery in January, 1879. It was at this time that the creamery project was started by C. T. Stearns and Edgar Partch. This



commenced business August 1, 1879, with horse power and a star churn. What was said to be the first hearse in the county was owned by H. C. Grotewohl. It was made by Schoch and Witt of Volga and painted by F. Dennert. Illustrating the life of the village it may be stated that in 1879 there was a great craze for walking matches. Everyone tried his foot at it and Dell Wade was the champion, walking 50 miles in 9 hours, 36 minutes and 16 seconds.

*Abd-El-Kader*—In November, 1879, occurred the death of Abd-El-Kader, the Algerian patriot for whom Elkader was named. The Register gives an account of the naming of the town and a biography of Abd-El-Kader, as, follows: "In 1844, when John Thompson, Chester Sage and Timothy Davis, the founders of Elkader were laying out the town, the attention of the whole world was turned toward Algeria, where Abd-El-Kader was fighting for his country, trying to preserve it from the French. When the town had been platted, and a name was necessary to complete the work, Timothy Davis, with the exploits of Abd-El-Kader fresh in his mind, proposed the name, Elkader, which was adopted. The chief from whom the town derived its name, died last week in Damascus, in the seventy-second year of his age. Abd-El-Kader, Sheik-up-Islam, descendant of the prophet, Emir of Mascara, Sultan of Algeria, was born in Mascara, in 1807, and during his early years made a pilgrimage to Mecca, and studied Arab philosophy in the schools of Egypt and Morocco. In 1828, having offended the Dey of Algeria, he was obliged to flee to Egypt. In 1831, during the first war between Algeria and France, he again appeared in his native country and took the leadership of the army against France, and at the head of 10,000 horsemen attacked Oran, in May, 1832. His attempt was unsuccessful, and other engagements followed without decisive results. After several changes in the personnel of the French officers, General Voivol succeeded to the command. Finding that Abd-El-Kader's influence was every day extending, the French concluded to make peace with him, and, in February, 1834, a treaty was concluded between him and the governor of Oran, by which Abd-El-Kader recognized the suzerainty of France, but was named Emir of the province of Mascara, with many important commercial rights over the whole of Oran.

"In July, 1835, for some alleged misdemeanor the French again declared war against him, and after a war of over a year, in which he defeated the French in several battles, a treaty was again made with him, May 30, 1837. In 1839, Abd-El-Kader declared war against France, for marching an armed force through his territory, and after a terrible war of over seven years, in which he was stripped of the last vestige of power and reduced to the extremity of distress, he was finally obliged to surrender. It was during this war that his name became widely known, beaten in battle after battle, his troops deserting him, he would not give up the contest until all was gone. After his surrender he was placed in the castle of Ambroise, near Blois, where he remained until 1852, when Louis Napoleon released him, and gave him an annual pension of 100,000 francs. Subsequently, he removed to Damascus, and his name will be held in grateful remembrance by the Christians of that city for his courageous efforts for



their protection from the fury of the fanatical Turks, during the massacre of 1860, when the Druses fell upon the Maronites. For this service he received the cross of the Legion of Honor. He was one of the lions of the Paris exposition of 1855, and in 1863 visited the Suez canal, receiving a present of a piece of land from M. DeLesseps. In 1865, he went to England and, in 1867, attended another exposition at Paris. The last years of his life have been peaceful, and free from the volcanic fire of patriotism that animated him to do for his country, what Marco Bozzaris sought to do for suffering Greece, Kosciusko for Poland and Schamyl for Caucasus."

## CHAPTER XI

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### IMPROVEMENT PERIOD—1880-1900

POLITICAL HISTORY—PROHIBITION—FREE SILVER ISSUE—COUNTY GOVERNMENT—ELKADER BRIDGE—COUNTY ASYLUM—STORMS AND FLOODS—FLOOD OF 1896—COUNTY EVENTS—SOLDIERS' REUNIONS—COUNTY FAIRS—ELKADER FAIR—INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS—CRIMINAL RECORD—RECHFUS MURDER—ELKINS MURDER—JAIL DELIVERIES—GROWTH OF TOWNS—SPANISH WAR—BUILDING PROGRESS IN ELKADER—THE LAST PIONEERS.

THE history of Clayton county between the years of 1880 and 1900 is, in miniature, the history of Iowa. It was the growth and progress of these years which stamped Iowa as the best and richest state in the Union. The land which, less than fifty years before, had been thought too inhospitable to support an extensive population and which had been abandoned, as a hunting ground for Indian tribes, had proven that it was the garden spot of all the world, and Clayton county had proven that it was the garden spot of Iowa. The real growth of the county is to be found during this period, not in the towns, but on the farms. No mushroom cities grew, there were no booms and no seasons of wild speculation. Practically no railroad mileage was added. The towns were, in fact, almost ultra conservative. They grew and expanded but in reality lagged behind the development of the county as a whole. The best brain and brawn of the county was on the farm. This was shown by better methods of agriculture, by improvement of stock, by intensive methods, by better buildings, and by higher priced lands. Northeastern Iowa became noted as the dairy of the United States. The prairies, where once roamed the elk and buffalo, were dotted with cattle of the purest blood. There were no woolen mills, nor factories of the larger kind, but the creameries were almost as numerous as the schools. In short, the farm was not the adjunct of the town; the town was the adjunct of the farm, and the towns but barely kept pace with the demand of the rich agricultural districts by which they were surrounded. The increased transportation facilities limited the trade area of each town to its own immediate vicinity. Men no longer drove two hundred miles to take their wheat to McGregor. The line to the west and the Elkader branch curtailed the trade of the Pocket city; the Volga branch took from the trade of Elkader; and the line through Strawberry Point was a bane to the merchants along the Volga. While this prevented the growth of any

large city and was a source of regret to the individual merchants, it was of great economic value to the county, as the farmer was within easy reach of transportation and was able to pick and choose his market place. Increased land values operated to prevent growth in population, and allowing for natural increase, there was a positive loss. Just as the cheap lands of Iowa beckoned to the ambitious poor and the adventurous young of the eastern states in early days, so the Dakotas and Kansas and Nebraska called to the youth of Iowa. And thus while Clayton county prospered, it grew, not in population, not in the building of cities, but in wealth and culture and material comforts.

*Politics*—From 1880 until 1894 the politics of the county hinged almost entirely upon the question of prohibition. Whatever may be the results of this great problem, the immediate effects of this controversy were disastrous for Clayton county. Had it stopped with politics the harm would have been insignificant, perhaps, but it entered into the courts, the schools, the church, into business life and the personal relation of the men of the county. It made friends of enemies and enemies of friends. The passage of the so-called "mulct law," in the early 90's, was the signal for a truce on this question which lasted for twenty years.

In 1893, the pressure of hard times drove men to think chiefly of economic matters, and it was then that the silver question sprang into existence, and it occupied the center of the political stage until after the close of the century.

While a few of the giants of the ante-bellum days; such men as Murdock, Noble, Crosby, Updegraff, Uriell and Stoneman, remained as factors in the politics of the county many new men were springing up, men who had been born in the county, old soldiers whose military records made them beloved of the people, new men coming to the county after the war and proving their worth, were to be reckoned with in politics. Such men as John Everall, R. E. Price, Senator Bayless, J. E. Corlett, Henry Meyer, and later, D. D. Murphy, H. C. Bishop, Henry Meder, John G. Hemple, B. W. Newberry and others, became prominent.

In 1880, Clayton county was Republican, occasional Democratic officers were elected, but in the main the Republican party was dominant. The question of prohibition entered into the contest, but not enough to change the current of thought in the presidential election. It was in this year that Charles Reugnitz made his first appearance as a candidate. He was secretary of the Democratic county convention and was nominated for clerk over Mr. Shields. Reugnitz declined and Shields was nominated, later Shields withdrew and the committee named Reugnitz. The Republican majority for Garfield was more than 600. Updegraff was elected to congress, Reugnitz, who was connected with the hoop factory at Clayton was defeated by J. F. Thompson and C. L. McGonigal lost the office of recorder to Charles Shecker.

In 1881, the Democrats were at first so badly disorganized that they held no convention to name state delegates, and these were appointed by F. D. Bayless, who, as chairman of the Democratic county committee, was coming into political prominence. William Larrabee, of Fayette county, but whose interests were large in this county, was a



candidate for the Republican nomination for governor but was defeated by Buren R. Sherman. Prohibition was a growing factor in this campaign, but Sherman carried the county by more than 200. The Democrats elected C. F. Floete treasurer and G. H. Scofield supervisor, but John Everall was beaten for superintendent by O. D. Oathout by 91 majority and the balance of the ticket was Republican.

*Prohibition*—In June, 1882, came the election on the prohibitory amendment. This was defeated in Clayton county, the vote being, for 823, against 2,955. The amendment carried in the state by 30,000. There had been a bitter fight, and those opposed to prohibition, held the Republican party responsible for its submission to the people and for its passage. The Germans, who had been largely with the Republicans and who were opposed to prohibition, left the Republican party almost en masse and the result was apparent in the election of November, 1882, when the Democrats carried the county by nearly 700, Updegraff had a margin of but 61, and L. H. Weller was elected. Nevertheless, Thompson, Republican, defeated Corlett for clerk and Shecker won for recorder as against Reugnitz; Frank Shoulte, Democrat, was elected on the board, and L. O. Hatch for district judge and C. Wellington for attorney, both Democrats, had large majorities. During this campaign there were organizations both for and against prohibition. A prohibitory amendment convention was held in Elkader as early as October, 1881. In January, there was a prohibition convention with Francis H. Palmer, president and Robert Grant secretary. In June, 1882, there was an anti-prohibition convention, called by S. K. Adams. Robert Quigley was chairman of this convention and, speaking of the effect of prohibitory laws, he said that, in 1872, there were forty-two saloons in McGregor, that a \$50 license was imposed and sixteen saloons went out of business, and that, at that time, there were but sixteen saloons in McGregor. He said that liquor prosecutions had already cost the county \$6,000 and that but two convictions, from Monona, had been secured. H. O. Pratt stumped the county for prohibition and he and S. K. Adams held joint debates. The Register, Democratic, of Elkader, hails the results of the election of 1882 as "A Tidal Wave; Revolution Complete." The year 1883, was another of prohibition excitement. A test case was brought and Judge Walter I. Hayes, of Clinton, held the amendment annulled because the wording differed in one section as passed by the senate and as passed by the house. This decision was confirmed by the supreme court and the amendment was thrown out. This reopened the whole question. The prohibitionists were angered that the result of the election had been nullified by what they believed to be a technicality, or worse, and the anti-prohibitionists were determined to defeat any legislation if possible. Clayton county was in a turmoil. In February, 1883, a prohibition convention was held and among the delegates to the state convention were Michael Uriell and J. O. Crosby. The Democratic convention was the largest that party had yet held and F. D. Bayless was nominated for the senate. The Republicans were styled "Prohibicicans." There were joint debates on the temperance issue, between C. E. Floete and Ernest Hofer of the McGregor News. The result of the October election was a complete Democratic victory, ranging from 730 for L.

G. Kinne for governor, to 57 for August Borman, sheriff; John Everall was elected auditor and Bayless as senator. The top-notch majority was given Walter I. Hayes, who carried the county for supreme judge, by 871. Garnavillo ratified the election with a grand illumination and torch light parade.

In March, 1884, a prohibitory law was passed by the legislature, carrying into effect, by statute, what had been lost with the amendment. This was the year of the great Cleveland-Blaine contest and national issues were more prominent. Updegraff was the candidate of this county for the congressional nomination, but, in a long drawn convention battle, he was defeated by L. N. Fuller, on the 16th ballot. Judge Murdock, also was a candidate for the independent judicial nomination, but he was defeated by J. F. Dayton. Judge Noble was the democratic candidate for district elector. In Clayton county the entire democratic ticket was elected by an average majority of nearly 700. There were ratification meetings at Elkader, Guttenberg, Strawberry Point and McGregor and a grand county rally at Elkader to celebrate the Cleveland victory with fireworks, bands, a torch light procession of 500, and an address by John Everall. Prohibition was still the issue in 1885, William Larrabee was the republican nominee for governor and he was opposed by C. E. Whiting, on a state ticket composed equally of democrats and greenbackers. Even so popular a man as Judge Murdock was defeated for representative on the republican ticket in the election of 1885, and the average democratic majority was about 800. It was in this year that Charles Reugnitz began his long career as treasurer of Clayton county.

The election of 1886 was practically a repetition of the preceding years. The republican party was thoroughly disorganized and disheartened. E. M. Williams, Thos. Updegraff, J. O. Crosby and R. E. Price were about the only republican leaders in the county. The democratic majority increased to an average of more than 1,000, the lowest majority being 715, given Robert Quigley for county attorney. During these years came the fiercest struggle for the enforcement of the prohibitory law. More than two thirds of the county was opposed to its enforcement and the attempts to close saloons caused bad blood and much ill feeling. The friends of prohibitionists insisted that the law must be obeyed and the opponents of the law asserted that the prosecutions were persecutions and made the cover for graft. This turmoil created a most unhealthy state throughout the county. At a meeting of the county temperance alliance, held in June, 1887, it was reported that injunctions had been obtained against twenty-one saloons and three breweries, temporary injunctions against 10 saloons and 1 brewery and that 8 cases were pending. A member of the convention from Clayton stated that in his town the saloons were open day and night and Sunday and sold indiscriminately to minors and drunkards. The remedy proposed by the prohibitionists was stricter enforcement and the remedy of the anti-prohibitionists was a license law, which should regulate rather than prohibit. William Larrabee was the republican candidate for governor in 1887, and although he was well known and had large interests in the county, he was defeated in Clayton by almost 1,200, the lowest democratic majority given was 458, for senator Bayless. It

was in this year that H. C. Bishop was first elected superintendent.

The Cleveland-Harrison campaign of 1888 inspired the republicans to more activity and the campaign was harder fought than in former years. D. D. Murphy, who had been principal of the schools at Guttenberg and who had but recently moved to Elkader to practice law, for the first time became prominent as a democratic orator. It was in the day of the torch light campaign and there were rallies all over the county. At Elkader, both parties rallied on the same evening; there were clubs from Clayton Center, Strawberry Point, Garnavillo and Monona in the democratic parade, with drum corps and bands, and D. D. Murphy delivered the address. The republicans had a parade of nearly equal proportions; one feature being the Ladies' Harrison Club, and the democratic paper complains bitterly that the ladies sang, while marching, "We'll hang old Cleveland on a sour apple tree." The republican orators were L. E. Fellows, and Col. J. K. Sweeney, of Osage. The democratic majority in the county was about 700, and all the democratic county ticket was elected. Two of the old time republican leaders to bite the dust were Samuel Murdock, for attorney, and Gregor McGregor for supervisor. Nevertheless, the republicans jubilated over the national victory and Elkader was ablaze with torch lights, fireworks and bond fires. The Garnavillo band was employed and the Ladies' Harrison Club marched in triumph.

The democratic party reached almost the crest of its tide in 1889. Horace Boies was the candidate for governor on a platform for license. D. D. Murphy was chairman of the democratic county committee, the county convention was large and enthusiastic. The result in Clayton county was a victory of almost two to one. The vote for governor was, Boies, 3,395; Hutchinson, 1,735; Boies majority, 1,660. This was regarded not only as a democratic victory, but as a victory against prohibition, and Clayton county celebrated accordingly. At Elkader all the stores were ablaze with candles, there was a torch light parade, speeches by Murphy, Bishop, Everall and Bayless and this was followed by a grand ball.

As a democratic nomination was considered equivalent to an election the conventions of that party were the scenes of hard fought battles. In 1890 it took one informal and nine formal ballots to nominate a recorder. John G. Hagensick, J. H. Hill, Fred Soll and Theo Krasinsky were the candidates and Soll finally won. D. D. Murphy was candidate for county attorney. The entire democratic ticket was elected, the lowest majority being 1,195. In 1891 was another Boies campaign, and it was another landslide for Clayton county democrats. Boies' majority was more than 1,500, and the only contest which approached closeness was that for sheriff, J. J. Kann defeating Fred Bergman, republican, by a vote of 2,950 to 2,579.

The presidential campaign of 1892 maintained the democratic supremacy in this county. The political sensation of the year was a suit for criminal libel against Otis and Widman of the McGregor News, with H. C. Bishop as prosecuting witness. The News had published articles reflecting upon Mr. Bishop's conduct of the office of superintendent. After a stormy trial the News' editors were found guilty, but a motion for a new trial was sustained and the case did not come up



again. In 1892 the Australian ballot was first used in Iowa. The republicans succeeded in reducing the democratic majority to less than 900, but the entire democratic ticket was elected.

In 1893 Frank D. Jackson was the republican candidate for governor, and the keynote of the platform was that "Prohibition is no test of party fealty." This was taken to presage some modification of the prohibitory law and this, together with the hard times, which struck the country in 1893, invited the return of many former republicans to that party. In Clayton county the republicans were aided by a convention fight for the democratic nomination for sheriff. There were several candidates and John K. Molumby was nominated. Fred Cook, his closest opponent, declared that he had been defeated by unfair methods, that he would not support Molumby and that he would be a candidate. The republicans took advantage of this situation and nominated Cook on their ticket. The result was the reduction of the democratic majority on the state ticket to 706, the election of Cook by one of the largest majorities ever given a county official; the vote being Molumby, 1,780; Cook, 3,544; and the election of William Monlux, republican, for supervisor.

The state of the country now forced economic questions to the front. Many Democrats were dissatisfied with the Cleveland administration and this opposition, within his own party, was already strong in 1894. In this election the democratic majority in Clayton county was reduced to a little more than 200 and Updegraff came within 37 of carrying the county for congress. It was in this campaign that John G. Hempel was first a candidate, being defeated for recorder by Fred Soll by less than 100. On the face of the returns Henry Meder, republican, was elected supervisor over George H. Scofield by 9 votes. This election was contested and a commission was appointed, consisting of Charles Mentzel, R. E. Price and Frank Shoulte. The entire vote of the county was recanvassed, the commission taking ten days for its work. Every ballot not marked strictly according to law was thrown out and in this way 1,191 ballots were found defective and Scofield was declared elected by a majority of 6. An appeal was taken and on the recount 14 more were added to Scofield's majority. Under recent decisions it is probable that the majority of these 1,191 ballots would be counted, but at that time the Australian ballot law was new and there were no precedents, and the commission undoubtedly acted with fairness. The contest aroused much feeling and the following year the republican convention denounced the action of the commission, but at the same time nominated R. E. Price, a member of the commission, for the state senate. In 1895 the democratic majority was increased to 484, all democratic nominees were elected, the only close race being between T. J. Sullivan, democrat, who defeated Henry Meder for representative by a majority of 64.

*Free Silver Issue*—The year 1896 saw another political revolution. The course of events had caused wide differences in both political parties. Free silver was the great issue and it gained control of democracy. Horace Boies was boomed as a presidential candidate. Clayton was a "Sound Money" county and the democratic county convention endorsed the Cleveland administration and opposed free silver.

D. D. Murphy was the candidate of the sound money democrats for district delegate. The free silver forces won in the state, however, and the great speech delivered by William J. Bryan in reply to the gold speech by David B. Hill at the Chicago convention swept Bryan into the leadership of democracy. In the meantime the passage of the mulct law, by which the provisions of the prohibitory law might be abrogated upon a petition signed by 65 per cent of the voters, had largely taken the prohibition question out of politics. In those counties where the prohibitory sentiment was strong the law remained in force and in counties, such as Clayton, where the majority opposed prohibition there were licensed and regulated saloons. While the leaders of democracy in this county were loyal to Bryan and preserved their party regularity, the German voters of the county voted largely for McKinley and against free silver. The result was a republican majority of 450 for McKinley and the election of the entire republican ticket, with the exception of J. H. Hill, democrat, who was elected recorder by a majority of 121. Reuben Noble was a gold democrat, was outspoken in his convictions and would doubtless have taken an active part in the campaign had his splendid career not been ended by death just prior to this election. Senator Bayless was the candidate for congress, but was defeated by Updegraf, both in the county and the district. It was in 1896 that John G. Hempel was first elected auditor of the county.

In 1897 the political pendulum swung back for Clayton county democrats, and Fred White, the democratic candidate for governor, carried the county against Leslie M. Shaw by a little less than 200. The democratic county candidates were mostly candidates for re-election. They were popular men, Reugnitz for treasurer and Denton for sheriff being particularly strong. Such democrats as John Everall announced that, while opposed to free silver, they would act with the democratic party, and this was the position of many of the gold democrats. As a result H. G. Jenkins, for supervisor, was the only republican elected.

The sensation of 1898 in republican circles was the campaign for the congressional nomination. Mr. Updegraff was again a candidate, and he was opposed by several others, among whom was J. E. Blythe, of Mason City. At the convention more than 300 ballots were taken and the result was the nomination of a "dark horse" in the person of G. N. Haugen, of Worth county. T. T. Blaise, of Mason City, was the opposing democrat. The election of 1898 was a republican victory; the complete county ticket being elected, with the exception of J. H. Hill, for recorder, and the republican state ticket receiving 136 majority.

In 1899 the county see-sawed back and White, democrat, defeated Shay, republican, by 148, and the entire democratic ticket was elected by a small majority. This was preliminary to the presidential campaign of 1900, when McKinley again carried the county by a large majority over Bryan.

*County Government*—The county government under the control of the board of three supervisors was in the main satisfactory and efficient. The board was composed of competent men, and while they were subject to criticism, from time to time, there was no scandal connected with their administration. The many serious floods and severe storms

to which the county was subjected caused a severe strain upon county finances, and the building of bridges occupied a large portion of the time of the board. By 1883 it was found that there were a large number of county warrants outstanding, and that failure to pay these injured the credit of the county and also worked hardship upon creditors who needed their money and could only obtain it by discounting their warrants. To meet this the county voted a bond issue of \$15,000 to pay warrants issued prior to 1882. Fourteen thousand dollars of these bonds were sold, the issue being almost entirely bought by local parties at a good premium. The first pharmacy permit for the sale of liquors under the Clarke law was issued in 1882 to W. R. White, of Volga City. The board was accused of extravagance in bridge building, and it was pointed out that bridge work was done much more cheaply in Allamakee county. This criticism finally caused the abandonment of the old system and the letting of bridges by contract. Outside of its routine business, the board during this period, accomplished several things of permanent importance to the county. The first of these was the building of the splendid stone bridge at Elkader.

*Elkader Bridge*—The history of the location and building of the Elkader bridge is short and not uninteresting. Prior to the building, the river at this point was spanned by several double iron trusses of the Truesdale patent. This bridge had been defective for years, and repairs were frequently required to keep it in passable condition. Finally the Board of Supervisors, believing the bridge unsafe, decided to take action, and, as a preliminary step, secured the service of M. Tschirgi, Jr., C. E., the engineer of the high bridge at Dubuque, to examine the old structure and report as to its safety. The board at this time consisted of Messrs. S. H. F. Schoulte, James McKinley and John Luther. The engineer made the examination and reported that the structure was unsafe and should be condemned. The board condemned the bridge and proceeded to have a new structure built. The board had in mind the construction of a stone arch bridge, as the location was very suitable, it would be permanent and avoid the heavy annual expense of replanking the floor of either an iron or wooden bridge. Also Cole's quarry near town afforded an inexhaustible supply of the finest magnesian lime stone, free from all imperfections and which has proven to be proof against the action of frost and water. With all the natural advantages at hand, the board believed it would be a matter of economy to carry out their ideas as to a stone arch bridge, and instructed engineer Tschirgi to prepare a preliminary estimate of the cost and to draw up a complete set of plans and specifications for a stone arch bridge. The plan was made, presented to the board, and adopted, and bids invited for the construction of either an iron or stone bridge. The result justified the board's ideas, the bids for the same width of structure and requisite strength showing the iron to be more expensive than the price at which the contract for the stone bridge was let.

The contract was awarded to Messrs. Byrne and Blade, two enterprising stone masons and contractors from Dubuque, for \$13,000. The plans upon which the contract was based called for two spans, each



84 feet in the clear, with a center pier, 19 feet in width, at the foundation. The other dimensions were as follows:

Clear height of each arch.....	27.9 feet
Outside width of bridge.....	34 feet
Clear width of bridge.....	30 feet
Entire length of bridge.....	346 feet

The road bed is macadamized with gutter on upper side of roadway, a curb stone and hexagonal block cement sidewalk six feet wide.

The contractors, with a large force of men, commenced work on the bridge in August, and it required nine months of actual work to complete it. There are 4,161 cubic yards of material in the bridge, and its estimated weight is 18,618,255 pounds, equal to 9,309 tons. The gentlemen who had charge of its construction deserve great credit for the skill displayed in its erection, and for the care taken to avoid accidents, as no one was injured, nor any accident of any description occurred, and the work was both difficult and dangerous. While the work was progressing the public was allowed to cross the bridge freely, the old structure being kept in position until a crossing could be effected on the new bridge, although the new stands in exactly the same place formerly occupied by the old. The completion of this bridge gave to Elkader and Clayton county the finest and longest stone arch highway bridge in the state, or in fact anywhere west of the Mississippi River. It is not only a credit to its designer, M. Tschirgi, and an ornament to Elkader, but is a most economical structure, when it is considered that it is practically indestructible, needing no repairs, and cost even less than an iron bridge of the same dimensions would have cost.

*County Asylum*—By the spring of 1880 the county asylum had been built on the poor farm in Reed township. This structure was two stories high, had furnace heat and contained twelve cells. In 1890 it was felt that the institution could be operated with less expense if the farm was larger, and 80 acres was purchased from John Daniels for the sum of \$1,550. The number of insane patients increased and these were kept at the state hospital at Independence, at considerable expense. The legislature enacted a law by which counties might erect and maintain hospitals for the incurable insane. A proposition to do this was submitted to the voters in 1897, and was carried by a majority of 846. Immediately after the election, both McGregor and Guttenberg made claim for the location, but the question was decided in favor of Elkader, upon the condition that Elkader should provide a site of at least 6 acres, and should run the city water mains to the building. Elkader met these conditions, offering the present beautiful site of the county hospital. The location is an ideal one for such an institution, and Clayton county can congratulate itself that it has provided for its unfortunates in such a generous manner. The board proceeded at once with the plans for this building and contracts were let. William Monlux was chairman of the board, and was the commissioner in charge of the construction. The total cost of the building, under the contract was \$14,845.55. The building, of brick and stone, consist of two stories and a basement, the dimensions are, length 141 feet 2 inches; width, wings, 41 feet; center, 44 feet, with a porch and entrance steps, 17 feet

wide. The building contains a central or administrative department with a wing on either side containing wards for patients. The cellar and basement walls were constructed by Stoops & Williamson, and are fine specimens of mason work, the rock being taken from the quarry adjacent to the building. J. L. Schneider & Bros. were the contractors for the brick work, etc.; W. F. Kleimpell furnished the heating apparatus; Brown & Bahr the plumbing; E. T. Barnum the steel work, and H. L. Griffith did the electric wiring. There is one thing to be said for Clayton county, and that is that no county has come nearer to getting the worth of its money in all of its public buildings than has Clayton. An addition was built to the court house in shape of a tower to contain the clock which was donated by the people of Elkader, F. D. Bayless and J. B. Schmidt being the promoters. The tower cost \$1,200, the clock \$550 and the bell \$190. This work was done in 1896.

In 1895, soon after the passage of the mulct law there was much confusion as to the collection of the mulct tax. Upon advice of counsel many liquor dealers refused to pay the mulct tax pending the decision as to the constitutionality of the law. When this point was decided the saloon men came before the board, asking that a compromise be affected. They stated that not over 50 per cent of the liquor dealers had been taxed and they offered to furnish a complete list of the dealers in the county. The board ordered, at a special session, that all penalties, interest and costs, also all tax due prior to October 1, 1894, would be remitted on condition that taxes not remitted be promptly paid, and that a correct list of all engaged in the liquor traffic be furnished. There were 44 dealers listed at the time.

*Storms and Floods*—It has been mentioned that the large part of the work of the board was in building and repairing bridges. The county was the victim of a number of severe storms and damaging floods. In June, 1880, there was a terrific storm, Bloody Run was flooded, the narrow gauge suffered heavily from washouts at Beulah and St. Olaf, the county bridge at Pony Creek was washed away, Elkport and Osterdock were under water, the Martin Garber farm was badly damaged and the Mississippi was the highest that had been known. At McGregor the river came to the steps of the Flanders house, Guttenberg was an island and railroad traffic was completely suspended. The next great storm was more in the nature of a cyclone, and occurred in June, 1881. Urdell's timber suffered badly. The storm was on Sunday and the church at Elkport was crowded; the wind struck the building with great fury, trees were blown down, teams stampeded and a panic prevailed. June seemed to be the month of storms, and in 1883 a destructive cyclone swept through Bremer, Fayette and Clayton counties. The cyclone swept down Bear Creek with a noise like a railroad train, destroying everything in its path. The Hartge home, at Elkport, was destroyed, and Mrs. Hartge was injured. At Littleport hail stones, "the size of potatoes," were reported. Just a month later the river at Osterdock is reported as "running from bluff to bluff." Many families were forced to move, boats were used on the main street of the town, and the saw mill was completely under water. The elements were kind for a number of years, but in June, 1890, floods washed out the bridges on the Elkader branch, the Turkey

was the highest it had been for nine years, the Volga bridge was washed out, the Meder saw mill destroyed, and there was much damage at McGregor. Again in June, 1892, floods swept away a thousand feet of the Beulah line and trains ran to Stulta only. The damage to county bridges at this time was estimated at \$25,000.

The big storm of 1895 occurred in August, and the Elkader branch was again put out of commission and 2,000 feet of track destroyed.

*Flood of 1896*—The most disastrous storm in the history of the county, in loss of life, occurred in the latter part of May, 1896. This was a storm partaking of the nature, both of a cyclone and a cloudburst. This storm was general throughout the west. The most damage was done at St. Louis and among the other losses there, was that of the steamer "Libbie Conger" of the Diamond Jo line, the boat sinking in the middle of the river with Captain Seaman, his wife and six of the crew. In this county the full force of the storm was felt on Bloody Run. It came between 11 and 12 o'clock of a Sunday night. A terrific stream of water poured down Bloody Run Hollow, filling the bottoms to a depth of from ten to twenty feet. About a mile west of Beulah the flood began tearing out railway bridges and the track bed. When it struck the Beulah depot it swept everything away. William Lord, the agent and his family, occupied the upper rooms. They heard the rushing water and escaped to the bluff but lost everything they had. The flood struck the house of Mrs. Patrick Burke, taking her and her grandson, William Burke, down the torrent. Their bodies were found a few miles below. At John Maloney's three young men, John Kodletz, Michael Havljeck and John Levostch had stopped to await the passing of the storm. These three, with Mr. Maloney, his wife and brother Michael were lost in the flood. The water piled up against the bridge and embankment until these gave way and carried the track and bridge against the house, but three of the bodies from this home were recovered. The next home was that of Lawrence Meyer and he and his wife and five children perished. In the McGregor yards, seven canvas men, of Kirkhart and Ryan Circus, were caught in the flood and sought safety in a box car. This was overturned and flooded and the canvas men were lost; thus at least twenty were killed in this storm. At North McGregor, the scene of destruction was startling. Houses, cars, engines and bridges being scattered in a promiscuous heap at the mouth of the valley. The flood rose so quickly that trainmen going to work in the yards had to climb onto box cars to save themselves and the men at the round house had to seek the tops of the engines for safety. Tracks, saw mills and lumber piles were also destroyed. It was not until June 12, that railroad traffic was resumed in the county.

Dr. J. W. O'Brien, writing for a New York paper, describes this storm as follows: "There came a cloudburst on the 24th of May, last; the water came down in a solid sheet from 11 o'clock until 1 a. m. From Beulah for nine miles down to the outlet at North McGregor an awful flood rolled down. Railroad engines were hurled around like foot balls, and great iron bridges snapped like pipe stems. Houses were caught and flung up against the hill side and their occupants whirled to death with the destructive torrent. Poor John Maloney,



wife and children, were among the lost; Michael Crimmins' house was hedged in by great bridge girders which held it anchored to the hillside and kept death away. As we pass along the swath of uptorn trees and debris of what were once railroad and houses littering the valley, we are shown where Crimmins' horses ran for their lives to a knoll, where they stayed until the waters abated. Engineer Stephens shows us his locomotive, thirty-one tons weight, which was made to dance a sort of Highland fling or Virginia reel in the surging torrent, the engineer perched the while on the top of his cab with some 200 cars rushing and crashing around him on the crest of the deadly waters. He had been at Bull Run and says Bloody Run beats it."

In May, 1899, there was a cyclone which was at its worst near Colesburg and which swept through Mallory township. Several were killed and much property destroyed. Every house in the path of this storm was wrecked. It will thus be seen that not only the railroad, but the supervisors had their hands full repairing the devastations of these many serious storms.

*County Events*—In social life and in politics this was pre-eminently the period of the old soldiers. Sufficient time had elapsed so that the memories of the war had grown dearer and the ranks had not been greatly thinned by death. The soldiers, who left Clayton county, as youths, returned to pick up the thread of their life work and, between 1880 and 1900, these warriors were in the very prime of manhood. Thus it was that a large per cent of public offices and public honors were, rightfully, bestowed upon the old soldiers and that their reunions were the great events of the county. This largely accounts for the gradual loss of interest in the old settlers meetings. The pioneer picnic for 1881 held at Garnavillo, was a grand success, however. Main street was spanned by arches, the parade included "Mathews Military Band, Officers in Carriages, Forty-eight Old Settlers on Foot, Walters Family Band, Garnavillo Turn Verein." There were addresses by A. C. Rogers and P. P. Olmstead, followed a lengthy talk by Judge Murdock and an original song by J. W. Stahl, of Elkport. Michael Uriell was elected president and A. C. Rogers, secretary. The reunion for 1882 was held at Elkader with the usual parade and address by Judge Murdock. The old officers were re-elected, Elkader was selected as the next meeting place and the innovation consisted of a free dinner for the old settlers and a program of races. In 1883, at Elkader, C. E. Floete was, for the first time, the orator. Among the other speakers were Colonel Crosby, Mr. Dixon, of McGregor, and Robert Read of California, a son of the much loved Captain R. R. Read. A balloon ascension was on the program but it was delayed by rain and when a later effort was made the balloon caught fire. These attempts at outside attractions show that it was felt necessary to have something more than the old settlers program in order to draw a crowd. Gutenberg was the meeting place, in 1884. There was a fine parade and speeches by Judge Murdock and Frank Shoulte. Michael Uriell presided, and the new officers were John Garber, president, and Charles Reinecke, secretary. In 1885, the old settlers met at Elkport, in the Hartge grove. The attendance was not large but there was a band and a general good time. The reunion of 1886, was held at the same

place, but for some reason, no preparations were made, and while the old settlers had a good visit and a ball game, the day was not a distinct success. A stronger effort was made for the reunion of 1887, which was held at Littleport. The newspaper account says it was a complete success and that there was an exciting game of baseball between Elkader and Littleport, which the latter won by 21 to 20. The gathering at Strawberry Point in 1888, was a large one, Mr. Newberry delivered an address, there were talks by F. C. Madison, Alex Blake, P. D. Rawson, Edward Dickens and Judge Murdock. There was also a poem by Mrs True. Daniel Greene was elected president, and Ernest Hofer, secretary. The old settlers reunion for 1889, was held at Volga on June 13. There was good music, both by the band and choir. The oration was delivered by B. W. Newberry of Strawberry Point, and Hon. S. Murdock gave reminiscences of the courts. At Edgewood in 1890 there was also a good crowd. A call was made for those who had lived in the county fifty years and George Gifford, Sam Peck, Michael Uriell and Edward Dickens responded. The address was made by Mr. Keeling of Volga and Judge Murdock presided. Interest seems to have waned at this time for there is no record of the reunion of 1891 and in July, 1892, Samuel Murdock writes to the press that he had not called a meeting of the old settlers on account of the wet season, but in September the reunion was held in a grove north of Elkader. The Register says: "The number in attendance was not as large as usual, a painful evidence of the fact that the men who first crossed the great Father of Waters are fast passing to their reward beyond another deep, dark tide." Mayor Hagensick welcomed the pioneers and Judge Murdock responded. Other speakers to tell of the pioneer days were Ned Dickens, Michael Uriell and S. H. F. Schoulte. Resolutions of sympathy were passed on account of the protracted illness of Samuel Peck. The officers elected were P. P. Olmstead president and T. H. Studebaker, of McGregor, secretary. Meeting of 1893 was held at McGregor, but without special incident. From this time until 1901 no mention of an old settlers' reunion is found in the Elkader papers from which one is lead to suppose that they were discontinued. Judge Murdock, who for many years was the central figure of these reunions, died in 1897 and there seems to have been no one to push the plans for these gatherings until they were taken up by the people of Strawberry Point. In truth the old settlers picnic was being largely replaced by the gatherings of the veterans.

*Soldiers Reunions*—There were many regimental reunions and the state had set the example by holding a state encampment and in June, 1882, a movement was started at Elkader to organize the soldiers and sailors of the county. This was the first step toward the organization of the Grand Army Post. Memorial day services were held in Elkader, May 30, 1880, at which time the graves of ten soldiers were decorated. This became more and more an annual observance and it was generally observed each year throughout the county. It was not until June, 1883, that the Grand Army Post was organized at Elkader. H. Karberg, of Dubuque, was the mustering officer and the post was named Boardman Post, in honor of Captain Elisha Boardman and there were nineteen charter members. By 1884, other posts had been organized,

for on Memorial Day, of that year, members of the Grand Army were present from Elkport and Strawberry Point, as well as from Elkader. In 1885, there was a reunion of the Twenty-seventh Iowa and in 1886 a reunion of Company D, of the Twenty-first Iowa, at which time the old war flag was carried. In 1885, it is stated that there were 429 soldiers of the Civil War in the county, seven veterans of the Mexican war, five of the Blackhawk war and one of the war of 1812, this latter being Thomas Alvey of Highland township, then 99 years old. It was not until September, 1886, twenty-five years after the opening of the war that the first county encampment of Clayton county veterans was held at Elkader. Great preparations were made for this event. The camp ground was selected, tents erected, a stand built and decorated and supplies enough for 500 were procured. On the first day there was a dress parade, with drum corps from McGregor and Strawberry Point. The camp fire was addressed by T. M. Davidson, G. H. Otis, Dr. Scott and Robert Quigley. During the night the soldiers foraged and had a general good time. The music of the drum and fife awakened them on the morning of the second day, rations were served and at 9 o'clock there was guard mount. John Everall delivered the address of welcome to which Gilbert Cooley responded. Judge Murdock also spoke and the circumstances of Captain Boardman's bravery were related. The third day was devoted to breaking camp. The commissary department was under the management of F. D. Bayless, Anton Kramer and James Corlett, and hundreds of meals were served. One hundred and seventy-six veterans registered at this first reunion. On the following September, 1887, the second reunion was held. T. M. Davidson welcomed the soldiers and G. H. Otis responded. A splendid dinner was served. There were three drum corps present and military discipline was observed to an extent. The third reunion, in September, 1888, was favored by fair weather and there was a large attendance. The address of welcome was delivered by D. D. Murphy and General Milo Sherman, Colonel J. K. Sweeney, of Osage, and Judge C. T. Granger were honored guests. There was a sham battle of Lookout Mountain, which was not only good fun for the old soldiers but a rare treat for the vast crowd of spectators. G. H. Otis was elected president of the association and J. M. Leach secretary.

Quite the grandest affair was held in August, 1889. Tents were erected to accommodate 2,000. Besides the Clayton county veterans, soldiers were present from Postville, Waukon and Decorah. President Otis was in charge and an address of welcome was delivered by Senator F. D. Bayless. On the second day there was a fine program, including a parade, speeches by George Cooley, John Stahl, D. D. Murphy, and Colonel J. K. Sweeney and the great sham battle of Missionary Ridge, followed by a spirited camp fire. The officers elected were T. M. Davidson, president, and J. M. Leach, secretary. A resolution was offered at this encampment endorsing Gilbert Cooley for postmaster at Strawberry Point and asking that the appointment of H. H. Scofield be annulled. This resolution had no effect, however, and Mr. Scofield received the appointment. The reunion of 1890 was another grand success. J. E. Corlett gave the address of welcome, which was responded to by John Everall. In the evening, J. E. Webb,



of Elkader was a speaker. On the second day there were addresses by H. H. Clark and Thomas Updegraff, a parade and many amusements and a grand camp fire, at night. It was decided to hold the next encampment at McGregor. G. H. Otis was elected president and J. M. Leach secretary.

*Agricultural Fairs*—The county fair continued at National during all this period with varying fortune and with added features from time to time, reflecting the popular amusement craze, walking matches, base ball games being succeeded by bicycle races. The weather man seemed to have a personal grudge against National and while other fairs might enjoy sunshine there was hardly one of these twenty years during which the National fair did not hit upon a rainy season. There were many financial difficulties, largely on account of the weather and in spite of state and county aid, it was not often that the management was able to pay premiums in full. Several attempts were made, chiefly on the part of Monona, to change the location, but these were unsuccessful. In 1881, Strawberry Point entered the lists with a fair which had a record of success. It was as fortunate in weather conditions as National was unfortunate. At the fair held in Strawberry Point, in September, 1881, the enterprising Press issued a daily paper. The complaint was made by Elkader papers that too many grafting games had been allowed, but this was immediately denied by the management. In 1883, the dates of the two fairs conflicted and there was a lively interchange of correspondence between the secretaries. Both fairs persisted in holding their dates and both had successful exhibitions.

Norman Hamilton was secretary of the National fair for several years, but in 1884, he committed suicide, by hanging, and A. O. Kenyon was appointed to fill the vacancy. In 1885, the Elkader Journal ran a daily at the National fair and Strawberry Point countered with a baby show. One great handicap of the National fair was lack of water supply and the McGregor Times complains that there was but one well, to furnish water for a crowd of between 5,000 and 6,000 together with their horses, and that men had to stand in line by the hour. It was sought to remedy this by drilling a deep well, but the drill broke and it was some years before an adequate water supply was obtained. By 1890, Strawberry Point had attained the distinction of a Roman chariot race. In 1894, John G. Hemple became secretary of the National fair, and at the annual meeting, resolutions were passed concerning the death of Gregor McGregor. In 1895, the fair was able to pay its premiums in full, and in 1896, the premiums were also paid and the floral exhibit and balloon ascension were the features; but in 1898 the county fair was able to pay but 60 per cent.

*Elkader Fair*—In 1895, a movement was inaugurated for a fair at Elkader. An option was taken on seventy-three acres owned by John Friend and a company was proposed with shares at \$100 each. It was not until 1898, however, that this took form and the Elkader Fair Association was incorporated with a capital of \$5,000. The fair grounds were leased with option to buy and Joseph Lamm was president and Dr. J. D. Bronson secretary. In May, a grading bee was

held and drilling was successful and a flowing well was struck. The first fair at Elkader was held in September, 1899, and the newspapers were enthusiastic as to its success. The attendance was 6,000 and the total receipts over \$5,000, so that all premiums were paid in full. This gave the Elkader fair a splendid start for the new century.

Aside from the celebrations of Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, other great holidays during this period were the annual gatherings of the A. O. U. W. Lodge. This order had lodges in nearly every town of the county and their annual meetings were large affairs with parades, bands, addresses and sports. This was, at that time, the most popular and the largest order in the county. The soldiers reunions continued, but with interruptions, each succeeding year finding it more difficult to get the veterans together. In 1894, Company D of the Twenty-first Iowa held a reunion at Strawberry Point, but only fourteen of the company were in attendance. The county reunion at Elkader in this year was a success, however. D. D. Murphy delivered the address of welcome and George H. Otis replied. The president of the organization was F. D. Bayless and J. H. Hill was secretary. In 1895, the veterans met at Camp Lincoln at Elkader with John Everall as president and George Cooley, secretary. It was at this reunion that the veterans acknowledged for the first time that "the boys are growing old." They refused, however, to take second place and declined an invitation to have their reunion held in connection with the fair. In 1896, 175 veterans attended the reunion at Strawberry Point. D. G. Griffith was president and T. M. Davidson secretary. In 1898, no reunion was held as no grounds were obtainable. There was, however, a soldiers' day in connection with the chautauqua at McGregor. There is no record of a reunion being held in the next two years. An added feature in the social life of the county was the establishment of the Methodist Assembly Chautauqua at McGregor Heights. Lansing and Decorah competed with McGregor for the location of this assembly, but the beautiful location at McGregor won. A pavillion was erected in May, 1898, and cottages were built. This gave a great impetus to gatherings of all kinds at McGregor and 5,000 people, 400 of them from Elkader attended the celebration on the following Fourth of July. In August, the Methodists held their first camp meeting at McGregor Heights and the grounds were formally dedicated.

*Industrial Progress*—Before 1880, the creamery movement gained ground in Clayton county and these soon became established, not only in the towns but throughout the country. Strawberry Point became a great center for the butter industry and was known as the "Cream City." This industry gave a great impetus to Strawberry Point and in the summer of 1881 the improvements in that city amounted to \$13,000 and the lumber sales for the three months, preceding August, amounted to 150,000 feet. The establishment of the creameries and the profits to the farmers encouraged the breeding of good stock, especially of milch cattle. In 1895, the Strawberry Point Press was able to give the following very favorable statement of the creamery business of the county: "We doubt if any other county in the nation can equal Clayton. Not only in the quantity of butter shipped, but in other

respects, Clayton county takes the lead. Previous to 1876, Iowa did not stand very high as a butter producing state, either in quantity or in quality of the product. In that year Iowa leaped right to the front by being awarded the gold medal at the World's Fair at Philadelphia for the best butter on exhibition, all states and nations competing. That medal published to the world the possibilities of Iowa as a dairy state. It gave Iowa a reputation which is worth millions of dollars to the state. That butter was made in Clayton county. At that time Clayton county was not very extensively engaged in the dairy business, but a county that is capable of producing the best butter that is made in the nation is sure to come to the front. It has now arrived there, shipping more than half a million pounds more butter than any other county in the state. The two largest separator creameries in the state are located in Clayton county, the Luana and the Strawberry Point creameries. The make of butter of these two creameries the past year (1894) was 851,491 pounds.

In 1896, it is boasted that Strawberry Point has the largest creamery in Iowa, the Dubuque Telegraph making an extensive write-up of the institution and giving some interesting statistics. It states that the milk receipts for the year ending February 1, 1896, were 10,731,428 pounds, that the large stand pipe of the Dubuque water company has a capacity of 400,000 gallons and that it would take three and one-third such stand pipes to hold this amount of milk. It would take 536 cars to carry the milk or a solid train three miles, 112 rods long. The butter produced was 462,191 pounds, requiring 7,612 tubs filling twenty-five cars. The receipts were nearly \$100,000 of which the men employed on milk routes received over \$10,000. This was a co-operative creamery with a capital of \$9,000. The Dubuque paper adds: "This creamery is probably the largest separator creamery in the world. At least none other in the country shows such a volume of business." In later years the large creamery trusts crowded the local creameries to the wall. The invention of the hand separator made it possible for the farmers to sell the butter fat, retaining the skimmed milk on the farm. While the milk product of Clayton county is still one of its main industries the per cent of butter manufactured in the county is very small compared to what it was at the beginning of the present century.

*The Criminal Record*—While Clayton has always been above the average in its respect for law and order, it would be impossible for any commonwealth to exist without crime. It forms an unpleasant chapter in any history, and concerning the ordinary crimes which occur in every community, it is necessary to state only that the per cent of criminality is as low in this county as its per cent of literacy is high. There were, however, some few cases which were notorious, and which must be mentioned. Rechfus murder—one of the first of these, after 1880, was the murder of Gustavus Rechfus, who was shot while sitting in his own home at his farm at Pleasant Ridge. The Elkader Register stated that Mr. Rechfus was seated in his dining room, and after eating his supper was reading his paper and sitting near the table on which the light was standing. His brother, Henry, and his brother's wife, were in the room when a shot was fired, which killed him instantly.



The brother reported the crime and an inquest was held and \$1,500 reward was offered. Several arrests on suspicion were made at the time. Rechfus was a man of considerable wealth, had loaned money to many, and was not an easy man with his creditors. The theory first held was that some hard pressed creditor had committed the crime. Sheriff Place, Judge Murdock and R. E. Price investigated the murder and found no clue, but they were unanimous in declaring that Henry Rechfus, who was accused of the crime by many, was not guilty. In May George Ellinger was arrested for the murder, but released under bond pending examination. It was reported that Ellinger was in debt to Rechfus and had been hard pressed by him. At the preliminary hearing Ellinger was released, but Judge Murdock and others continued to follow up the case, and detectives were employed. One of them, H. C. Frese, announced in July that he had not given up the case and believed the murderer lived within five miles of the Rechfus place. It was not until July, 1882, that the case against Ellinger was dismissed for lack of evidence, and in 1883, Henry Rechfus was arrested for the crime. There was a lengthy trial in which the best legal talent of the county was employed; Henry was acquitted and the crime was never punished.

Perhaps one of the most unique attempts at crime found on the criminal calendar of any county occurred at Millville, in August, 1881. A man by the name of Lathrop fought with John James and it was charged that Lathrop attempted to force the fangs of a rattlesnake (the head of which he held in his hand) into the neck of James. A brutal murder occurred at Guttenberg, in 1883, when in a fight a man by the name of Kampmeyer killed a man named Frasier with a spade. While the details of the murder were bloody, it was proven that the Frasier brothers hunted Kampmeyer up and assaulted him, and that he acted in self-defense. In November, 1883, Michael Penneton, of Highland township, killed his twin brother, John, by stabbing him in the breast with a butcher knife, and then striking him on the head with a club. The brothers were bachelors and lived together. John contemplated matrimony, and this so enraged his brother that they quarreled bitterly and the tragedy ensued. At the grave, Michael, who had been permitted to attend the funeral in charge of an officer, gave way to his grief and there was a most heart-rending scene.

In July, 1884, Ed Steele was killed mysteriously at a picnic near Edgewood. Alonzo Sherman was arrested, but was released, and later Eli Kewley and Pat Roach were arrested for the crime at Fort Dodge. Hearing of the return of the prisoners a mob gathered at Elkport. The sheriff learned of this, however, and placed his prisoners in jail at Manchester. Roach was released but Kewley was held for manslaughter.

*Elkins Murder*—Perhaps the most sensational crime in the history of the county occurred on Bear Creek, four miles southeast of Littleport, when Wesley Elkins, a boy under twelve years of age, killed his father, John Elkins, and his step-mother, in July, 1889. The crime was reported to the neighbors by the Elkins boy, who appeared, carrying the baby in his arms and declaring that some unknown man had entered the house that night and killed his father and mother. The verdict

of the coroner's jury was that they had come to their death at the hands of some unknown person. The crime was so infamous that the governor offered a reward. A week later, Wesley Elkins was arrested and held as a witness because of his statement that he was about to leave the county. His stories were found to be conflicting and, on August 1, he made a confession of the crime, as follows:

"My name is John Wesley Elkins, and I was 12 years old on the 12th day of July. I had wanted to leave home and be at liberty to do for myself for a long time. I once ran away but father brought me home. Two or three days before the 10th of July I began planning to kill my parents, and when I came from milking on that night I went to the old granary and got the club which was found, and placed it on a chair in my room. About 3 o'clock in the morning I got up and went out of doors and looked all around, but saw no one. I then went into the bed room where father and mother slept and saw they were asleep. I went back to my room and took the rifle from the wall where father always hung it, and went back to their room and put the muzzle within about two feet of father's face and fired. I ran back to my room and threw the gun on my bed and grabbed the club which was on a chair near the door, ran back to their door and saw mother had jumped out of bed upon the floor and was stooped over as if to light a lamp, when I struck her on the back of the head with the club; she kind of sprawled backwards upon the bed, and I struck her several times more until I was sure she was dead, and then father kind of groaned and I struck him once or twice to be sure he was dead. After I was sure they were dead I lit the lamp and took it to my room and then went back and took the baby from their bed, and took off its bloody clothes and dressed it and quieted it. Then I started to load the rifle, but after getting the powder into the gun I could not find the balls and other things, and thought I was fooling around there too long, and went to the back door and knocked the powder out of the gun by the doorstep, and took the club and threw it out into the weeds. I then went and hitched up the old horses and took the baby and drove down by Potters and they stopped me."

Elkins was tried, in January, 1890, and upon his confession was found guilty, but owing to his extreme youth he was sentenced to life imprisonment and capital punishment was not inflicted. A few years later it was reported that Elkins was a very dangerous prisoner with a homicidal tendency, and that he was the terror of the penitentiary. It was stated, however, that warden Madden took a great interest in his case and later it was reported that he had become a model prisoner. In 1898 an attempt was made to secure his pardon. This was opposed by the Elkader Register, which reprinted the confession as given above. This effort was unavailing, but other efforts were made which, though opposed in a strong speech by H. C. Bishop, the then senator from this county, were finally successful and Elkins has for many years been at liberty. He graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota, secured a position with a railway company and is now occupying a place of importance and trust, his career fully justifying his pardon.

Another crime which stirred the county in 1889 was the killing of George Cornell, an engineer on the river division of the Milwaukee

railroad, by J. J. Grinnell of McGregor. Grinnell was the court reporter of the county, and was well known and well liked. Cornell and Grinnell's wife maintained illicit relations for some time, and this became so open and flagrant as to become notorious. Grinnell finally became convinced of his wife's unfaithfulness and shot and killed Cornell at the lunch room at McGregor. Grinnell was arrested but released on bail and public sentiment was entirely in his favor. At the trial it was urged that grief had driven Grinnell temporarily insane, and this plea, together with the unwritten law, served to acquit him. In November, 1895, the county was shocked by a double tragedy, when Hans Allen killed Will Cross at the home of a Mrs. Minchk, at McGregor. Allen shot Cross, inflicted a flesh wound upon Mrs. Minchk's little girl and then shot himself in the heart.

In 1896 Sheriff Benton received great credit for the capture of George Luscher, who killed August Heiden, Jr., in Cox Creek on June 9, 1895. Luscher escaped at the time, was traced to Missouri and captured nine months after the commission of the crime. This completes the list of the sensational crimes during this period of twenty years, and shows that the county was not criminally inclined.

*Jail Deliveries*—During this period there were three more or less successful attempts at jail delivery. In 1881 five prisoners made a sudden attack on jailer John Jack. Jack was overpowered and his wife was knocked down. Four of the prisoners escaped, but two were quickly recaptured. In 1886 John Blake, confined to the county jail, contrived to make wooden keys to fit the locks and by this means effected his escape and there is no record that he was recaptured. Blake left behind him a note for the sheriff which must be one of the most unique bits of criminal literature. He said in part: "Mr. Berman, Esq. Dear Sir:—You will, no doubt, be a little surprised to find me gone, but I hope you will not think hard of me for this rash act for I have thought the matter over and have come to the conclusion that I can take care of myself. I do wish it was some other man that I was leaving instead of you, but it is a ground hog case. I must go for I have business to attend to. Hoping I will meet you some day, but when you are out of office, I bid you good-bye with my best wishes. J. W. B." Isaac Thompson and Will Sargent were arrested for assisting in this escape, but Blake was not recaptured. Again, in 1894, a prisoner named Carter, held at the county jail for robbery, beat Lee Cook, a son of Sheriff Cook, over the head with a club and made his escape.

*Growth of Towns*—Turning from these darker pages there are found many evidences of increasing prosperity in all the towns of the county. In 1880 Garnavillo reports much building and boasts of a new cigar factory, and a new store, creamery, public library and brewery. An item worthy of note concerning Garnavillo is that in 1880 a pipe organ was completed for the Lutheran church. This organ was made by L. Keller, of Guttenberg, and required two years of labor by himself and son. The organ was 13 feet wide, 15 feet deep and 17 feet high, and contained 1,060 pipes, the longest being 16 feet. Mr. Keller learned his trade in Germany, and this was one of the very few pipe organs ever constructed in the state of Iowa. In 1884 the Garnavillo



creamery burned, but it was soon rebuilt. During this period an attempt was made to establish a newspaper at Garnavillo, but this venture failed and it became a department of the Elkader Register. Garnavillo continued to develop keeping pace with the rich agricultural district round about it. Of the county in general the Elkader Register says, in 1886, "The farmers are doing better. Large barns are building and the towns are full of business. In Elkader every house is occupied and from McGregor, Strawberry Point, Volga and all the other towns come none but good reports." Land was beginning to rise in value, but in 1881 a farm of 142 acres near the Colony with improvements said to have been worth \$1,600, sold for \$2,300. In 1881 Clayton was the tenth county in the state, in point of school population, the school census showing 10,961 of school age and the county receiving \$2,192.20 from the state. Guttenberg was one of the most conservative towns of the county, but it made continued progress. In 1882 the citizens of this town interpreted a ruling that German might be taught in the schools, to permit of instruction in all branches in the German language, and decided to have the schools taught one-half of the week in English and the other half in German. This program was soon blocked, however, by a ruling of the state superintendent. In 1883 Guttenberg suffered a severe loss when the flouring mill owned by C. F. Weise, which had just been fitted with new improvements, was burned with a loss of \$30,000. Telephone communication between the towns of the county was established in the 80s, first at McGregor, then at Elkader and, in 1885, it was extended to National, Garnavillo and Clayton. That Guttenberg was continually striving for betterment is shown by the establishment of an excelsior factory in 1892. This was promoted by the citizens and, in March of that year, the city of Guttenberg voted a donation of \$5,000 to this enterprise. The depot at Guttenberg was destroyed by fire, in July, 1893, the wife and child of the agent narrowly escaping. September, 1893, saw the beginning of the Guttenberg system of water works and 2,000 feet of six-inch water mains were laid. The year following Guttenberg voted \$18,000 for its water works system. This was shortly after the disastrous fire when Dubuque was called on for aid and the fire engine from that city reached Guttenberg in 55 minutes. The Guttenberg Press was established in 1897, the town having been without a newspaper for some time.

It will be impossible within the limits of this history to give in detail all the story of the growth and changes in the various towns. Some of the important facts, however, stand out. In 1881, the business section of Volga was moved from its location on the hill to the immediate vicinity of the depot. Clayton, in 1882, reports a high tide of business, \$10,000 having been paid out for hogs in a single day. In 1887, the flour mill at Mederville, built in 1867, was totally destroyed by fire involving a great loss to that community, and in 1889, A. C. Tiede & Co. erected a fine new mill at Elkport, taking the place of the old Elk Valley mill erected in 1855. This was reported as being thoroughly modern and one of the best mills in the country and the "Diamond T" became a noted brand of flour. The capacity was 100 barrels per day and the new mill began operation, August 4, 1890. The County Horticultural Society was founded in 1892, with Samuel Mur-

dock president and T. M. Davidson secretary. J. O. Crosby had been appointed commissioner to the World's Fair and his efforts to secure an exhibit had created considerable interest in horticultural lines. The society started with thirty-six members and the first permanent officers were O. A. Kenyon, president, and J. E. Corlett, secretary. Monona enjoyed exceptional growth and in 1892, it arose to the dignity of a newspaper of its own. George H. Otis, the veteran newspaper man, who established the Elkader Register and who was later editor of the McGregor News, founding the Monona Leader on May 26, 1892. That June witnessed the first commencement exercises of the Monona schools and in August the city took steps looking to incorporation. At this time Monona had numerous business houses, three churches and a school of four rooms with Prof. J. Clark as principal. Volga also had a newspaper, the Vindicator, established in November, 1895, with Mr. Dowe as editor, but in the April following there was a fire which destroyed three of the principal stores and in which the Vindicator office was entirely consumed.

McGregor persevered during these years, firmly resolved, if it could not be a second Chicago, that at least it could be a thriving and enterprising little city. In 1881, the project was started for the new hotel to cost \$30,000 and it was said that the transient hotel business at that time amounted to \$200 a day. The building of the hotel was the occasion for much controversy as to the location. The business men's association was revived and interest was taken, particularly on the good roads question. In order to get away from any confusion in names it was suggested that the name of North McGregor be changed to Mendon. In February, 1882, McGregor lost one of its prominent citizens when John T. Stoneman moved to Cedar Rapids. McGregor staggered under a heavy load of debt and in 1883, a settlement was made with its creditors, the city wiping out its old indebtedness by the issue of bonds for \$40,000 running two years and bearing 5 per cent interest. The city had its traditional bad luck with fires and, in August, 1883, business properties of \$50,000 were wiped out, with but \$26,000 of insurance. In February, 1886, a fearful tragedy occurred five miles from McGregor when the log home occupied by Mr. Cooley and his family of five was destroyed by fire and the entire family burned to death. In May, 1891, a meeting was held at McGregor to secure a knitting factory and Thomas Updegraff and J. M. Gilchrist were appointed as a committee to visit Chicago to secure the enterprise and the same week it is announced that the Hofer brothers have sold the McGregor News to J. F. Widman. McGregor was one of the first cities of northeastern Iowa to have an electric light plant and this important addition to the town was completed in 1895. In 1897, an election was held relative to the establishment of water works. This was carried by a vote of 158 to 72, and, as a result, the council proceeded to act, appointing a committee to investigate, with Charles F. Lowethe as engineer and, in April, \$15,000 bonds were voted for water works purposes; one argument in favor of the bond issue being the fire, in March, when the Wood drug store and several other business houses were destroyed and Mrs. Wood and her baby were barely rescued from the burning building. In 1898, there was a



movement for the improvement of McGregor Heights and in the same year the Bergman Bros. erected a fine new opera house.

Elkader also had its ups and downs although as a whole the village was highly prosperous. In 1880, Elkader was without a railroad. The Iowa Eastern still extended a feeble finger from Beulah, but it was broken and bankrupt and well nigh hopeless. Gov. Larrabee had become largely interested in the road and it was predicted that it would be rebuilt into Elkader the coming season. The Milwaukee was consolidating all the lines of northeastern Iowa under its control and this was exceedingly unpopular, as it was felt that there would be no competition. This was one of the reasons why Elkader was exceedingly anxious to find a direct outlet to Dubuque and, in October, 1880, a meeting was held, addressed by Judge Murdock, R. E. Price, F. D. Payless and others, and \$20,000 was offered for a broad gauge road connecting with Dubuque. In December of the same year the Iowa Eastern served notice that it had suspended business until further notice and that all freight must be brought from Beulah by team. This was while negotiations were pending between Judge Williams and the Milwaukee and it was later announced that the officials had inspected the line and that shipments would continue until all stock already purchased was shipped, when the road would again suspend. This calamity was averted, however; the suspension lasting but a few days. By spring, 1881, the road was out of commission. The only engine was badly damaged and the work of repair was very slow. The old-time stage was again used and the merchants had great difficulty in getting their freight. Joe Lamm performed prodigies by loading the freight onto the cars, pushing them up the grade and letting them go down by gravity. In this way he managed to clear the accumulated freight at Beulah. Elkader's complaints were loud and long. The city had donated a mile of track and a depot which was rotting from unuse. The engine had been useless for six months, the angry citizens talked of a line to Elkport and urged the Northwestern to build a line from Strawberry Point to Elkader. A ray of hope came in May, when it was given out that surveys were being made for the Larrabee interests, from Beulah to Manchester, via Elkader. Still later it was reported that the McGregor and Des Moines Railroad, with William Larrabee as president, had absorbed the Iowa Eastern, would build from Elkader to Des Moines and that the Northwestern was interested in the movement. It was not until August, 1881, that trains again ran on the Iowa Eastern and were connected by Lamm's bus with Elkader. A new passenger coach was added, however. In November of that year the sale of the Iowa Eastern was rumored, and later confirmed, but the transfer did not take place until March 31, 1882. Work on changing to a broad gauge began in May and by July the standard gauge was built as far as Stulta.

In the meantime Elkader became interested in "The Great Diagonal Route." This was to extend from McGregor to Des Moines via Waterloo and Marshaltown. The newspapers of this period fairly bristle with paragraphs and editorials concerning this road. A 5 per cent tax was urged and a meeting was held with certain of the officials, who offered much encouragement. In September, 1882, Elkader



voted the 5 per cent tax to the Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska. McGregor also was enthusiastic for the new railroad, although the Milwaukee railway interests opposed it. The vote at Elkader was 197 for, and 156 against. This victory for progress was duly celebrated with a bonfire and speeches by S. K. Adams and R. E. Price. Volga, however, defeated the project by 81 to 179. This road failed to materialize and Elkader was still without a railroad. The Milwaukee was finally persuaded to send an engineer to look over the field and the citizens sent R. E. Price to Milwaukee to expostulate. He was told that the extension would be made but that it was too late in the fall to begin operations. In fact it was not until June, 1884, that the officials visited Elkader again and then no action was taken. In the meantime Elkader waxed wrathier every succeeding day as it saw its trade diverted to towns having railroad facilities. In May, 1885, a meeting was held at Price's office, the object being to force the Milwaukee to build. Funds were solicited to prepare evidence and R. E. Price was placed in charge. The Milwaukee announced that they would await the decision of a similar case concerning Northwood and the Elkader Register waxed so angry that it urged merchants to ship their goods via Elgin so as to take business from the Milwaukee. In January, 1886, the Iowa railroad commission ordered a hearing on the petition of Elkader, Price and Murdock acting as Elkader's attorneys. Another meeting was held and money was raised and the meeting resolved itself into a permanent citizen's association, with R. E. Price, president, and G. A. Fairfield, secretary. The grounds of their complaint to the railroad commission were that Elkader had donated a mile of track together with depot grounds and right of way to the Iowa Eastern; the consideration being that the railroad be operated and that, when the Milwaukee purchased the road, it was bound to fulfill this obligation. In March the Milwaukee's officials announced that they would lay the track and asked that the proceedings be dropped. Price and Murdock were thanked by the citizens for their efforts, at a meeting which was attended by the ladies. In June, work began on the Elkader line and September 15, 1886, was the eventful day when the first Milwaukee train ran into Elkader. For more than a year, however, there was no telegraph line and the business men petitioned for it in vain. In 1889, the railroad commission was appealed to to compel the Milwaukee to maintain a station at Bismark. The station had been discontinued and Niel and Campbell protested, in as much as they had donated land to the Iowa Eastern for station purposes and it had been accepted as such. The commission ordered the station restored.

In 1897, the railroad commission visited Elkader to investigate the petition for better service and better accommodation. The commission decided in favor of Elkader and ordered a second train which was put on in September, 1897. During these years the feeling of Elkader toward the railroad was decidedly unfriendly and it is a fact that the Milwaukee did nothing which was not forced upon it.

These were not the only discouragements under which Elkader labored. In 1880, the Davis interests in the mill were sold to Wolfgang Schmidt and the name of the concern was changed to W. Schmidt

& Bros. This in itself was a good thing for the town, as the new owners showed added enterprise, but, in July of 1881, the mill was damaged by floods to the extent of nearly \$5,000 and it was not reopened for business until December. In the meantime the bridge was also declared unsafe. Notwithstanding all this Elkader was a good market, the hog buyers paying out \$90,000 in 1880 and the mill buying 40,000 bu. of wheat, although idle half the year. The year 1881 saw a gain through the establishment of a creamery by A. C. Tiede & Co. and the mills were improved by the addition of the Stevens roller process. A Dubuque paper at this time declares "the court house better than the one at Dubuque, the race track good and the schools fine, but says the railroad is only a slight improvement over a one-horse wheel barrow line." In 1882, the mills were rebuilt, using what was called the Hungarian system. A fair was held and telephone wires installed but for some time there were no instruments. In August, 1882, for the third time, the mills were rebuilt and were made equal to any in this section of the state. In the social life of the town there was much interest taken in the Irish land league. Meetings were held at which Judge Murdock spoke and Michael Uriell was president. The interest was sustained for some time and liberal contributions made to the cause. One of the prominent business men to die in 1881 was Thomas Thompson, who came to Garnaville in 1848 and who was known throughout the county as the agricultural implement man, having brought the first threshing machine into the county by team from Chicago, a six weeks' journey.

In 1883, a Turner Hall was built at a cost of \$2,500 and, in June, Boardman Post G. A. R. was instituted with 19 members and T. M. Davidson as commander. The Register issued semi-weekly during a portion of 1884, but soon found it unsatisfactory and returned to the weekly. The founding of the Grand Army Post heightened interest in memorial day and this, in turn, called attention to the condition of the cemetery. Part of the cemetery was open to the public and there was no record of burials; a part belonged to Mrs. Julia M. Boardman and a part to Carter & Thompson. An association was suggested and this was acted upon at a meeting at which H. H. Bernard presided, when a permanent organization was formed with Isaac Havens, president, and D. G. Griffith, secretary.

The death of Gen. U. S. Grant evoked the patriotic spirit of the city and memorial services were held, Judge Murdock delivering the address. One June morning of 1886, the people were scandalized to learn that the post office had been burglarized and more than \$500 taken. Two men, Howard and Hill, were arrested. Hill confessed and offered to take the officers to the place where the plunder was hidden. He started with the officers but managed to escape but he was afterward arrested at Dubuque and brought to trial. A decided improvement was made, in 1886, when a board walk was laid from the east end of the bridge along the river to the depot. The building of the stone arch bridge, in 1889, was of great help to the city both on account of the labor employed and on account of the permanent improvement which it made. An event which shocked Elkader during this year was the death, by suicide, of A. Papin, a former teacher in

the schools and the editor of the Herald, which he had previously sold to Mr. Reinecke.

In 1894 an informal vote was taken as to whether the council should take steps to inaugurate a lighting system. This was carried, but nothing further was done at the time. The following year the water works question was advocated and R. E. Price and A. Kramer were appointed to visit Guttenberg and inspect the system there. In the meantime the citizens were urged to be sure to carry a pail when they went to a fire. The Fayette Postal Card, commenting on Elkader in 1895 says, "the Elkader councilmen receive but one dollar per year. A Union caucus is held, but one ticket is named, there is harmony and the town prospers. Without taxation thousands have been expended on the streets and there is \$1,000 in the treasury."

The plans for the water works were pushed, the cost estimated at \$15,000 and an election was held resulting favorably for the water works system. Land was purchased of H. Mayer on the bluff for the reservoir and the creamery lots near the river were bought for the pumping station. Before the system was completed, however, Elkader had its first big fire, the block containing the Clark House being destroyed. This was the old hotel, built in 1850, and known as the Boardman House, until 1889, when it was purchased by Clark. Work on the water works progressed and a fine well was sunk with a flow of 25 gallons per minute. The water works were completed by December, 1896. Eighteen ninety-seven was a great year for Elkader. It saw the building of the Bayless Hotel which was at that time one of the best hotel buildings in northeastern Iowa and which is still a credit to the city. The Molumby Block, the largest business building in town, and the Congregational church were all built, in 1897. The building of the Catholic church was also commenced and the improvements for the year totaled \$60,000.

*The Spanish War*—Clayton county did not take a prominent part in the Spanish-American war, of 1898. There was no company of the national guard in the county, but immediately upon the outbreak of the war T. M. Davidson and John Everall, Jr., enrolled 90 in a military company which was ready to volunteer. The governor was notified that these men would be subject to call and at one time it was thought that they might be needed, but with the filling of the national guard regiments it was found that no more troops would be required. X. V. Coleman, of North Buena Vista, enlisted and was one of the few Clayton county men to take part in this war. Three young men from Guttenberg enlisted in the regiment which was sent to the Philippines, August Boehn, Charles Boehn and William Burnes. The only Clayton county man who was a victim of this war was Thomas L. Wilson, a lieutenant in Company I, of the Forty-ninth Iowa, who died at Jacksonville, Florida, with typhoid fever and was buried at Garnavillo.

*Building Progress*—The next year was, also, the time of much building and the county asylum was built in this year. In 1899, there was a disastrous flood which carried away two-thirds of the dam, putting the mill out of commission for eight months. In June, the Boardman corner was destroyed by fire. This was not a bad thing for the town, as the lots were purchased by the owners of the state bank and



plans made for the handsome structure which now adorns that corner. In the closing days of the century St. Joseph's church was dedicated with appropriate services by Monsignor Ryan.

A matter which interested the entire county occurred in 1895, when John Witmer, of Des Moines, filed on 160 acres in Clayton township as his homestead, paying the filing fee of \$18 and claiming that, through an error, the land had never been properly pre-empted. On the other hand, it was claimed that this land was entered by John Thompson, in 1841, and transferred by him to Augustus Corriell in 1842. It was deeded to J. F. Beerbaum, in 1857, and 80 acres later transferred to J. H. Miller and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  acres to J. H. Schoulte. It seemed that some error was made between the land office at Des Moines and the land office at Washington. The property claimed by Witmer was valued at \$8,000. It was not until 1898 that this case was finally decided in favor of the Clayton county owners, W. A. Preston having fought it successfully through all the courts. Very naturally the sympathies of Clayton county people were with the owners here and there was much rejoicing when a favorable decision was rendered.

In 1898, while some of the boys were enlisting for the war, others enlisted in the search for gold, when the discoveries in Alaska made the gold fever rage in the pulse of all America. Capt. Henry Schadle, of Volga, led the party of a gold seekers, a number of the adventurous ones being "staked" by Clayton county capitalists. None of the party found sudden wealth and several were glad to wire for gold from Clayton county to get them safely back home.

#### THE LAST PIONEER

The years played havoc with the pioneers and with the old settlers, so that with the beginning of the new century none of those who first settled the county were living and but few remained of those who participated in its early struggles. Some men like Col. J. O. Crosby are still with us, splendid reminders of an heroic age. Croesus said, "Count ye no man happy until ye know the manner of his death." And so it is well to consider briefly these pioneers, not only the lives they lived but the deaths they died. It would be impossible even to name all who died within the twenty years from 1880 to 1900, but there are some who, through their work for the community, gained such place in the affections of the people that a history of the county would be incomplete without a mention of them. Death was very kind to Clayton county during 1880 and for a number of months no death among the prominent men of the county is recorded and it was not until December that the county was called upon to mourn the death of one of its oldest and most prominent pioneers, Judge Eliphalet Price. Judge Price was preëminently the historian of the county and in added chapters will be found a number of his writings together with a sketch of his illustrious career. Mr. Price's death occurred December 10, 1880. On December 18, occurred the death of a well beloved woman, Mrs. Jane Davis, wife of Hon. Timothy Davis who had been a resident of Elkader since 1867.

The death roll of 1881 contains the following names:

*Rev. Henry Glifford* died on June 26. He was one of the pioneer preachers of the county. He was born in Vermont in 1809 and came to Clayton county in 1843, removing to Reed township in 1867. Six of the early settlers of the county acted as his pallbearers and Hon. Samuel Murdock pronounced the eulogy.

*Mr. John M. Eberhardt* died by his own hand, in October, 1881, despondency caused by extreme age and infirmity being the cause. He was one of the first settlers in the vicinity of Littleport. He was born in Bavaria in 1798, and passed nearly all of his manhood days in this country.

*Joachim Balka* of Reed township died November 8, 1881. He was born in Mecklenberg, in 1834, and settled at Clayton Center in 1856.

*Henry L. Schuette* of Garnavillo died December 16, 1881. He was born in Hanover, 1832, and located in Garnavillo in 1850. He was a prominent lodge man and his funeral was in charge of the Masonic order.

*Dr. H. H. Hamilton* died at McGregor March 17, 1882. He came to Garnavillo in 1852 and later became a resident of McGregor. He was in the legislature from this county in 1868 and, in 1877, was strongly urged by his republican friends as a candidate for lieutenant governor. He was eminently successful as a physician and was highly respected as a citizen.

*James F. Campbell* died March 20, 1882, at Volga City. He settled in Sperry township in 1853 and held many positions of trust in the township and in the Methodist church, of which he was an earnest member.

*George Taft* died April 23, 1882, at East Elkport. He was born in Vermont, in 1807, and came to Elkport in 1874. He was the owner of a large stove factory and was one of the most public spirited citizens of Elkport.

*John Paul Thoma* died May 2, 1882, at Garnavillo. He was born in Bavaria, in 1802, and located in Garnavillo in 1852. He was one of the men who helped to give Garnavillo such a substantial growth.

*Carl Reugnitz, Sr.*, died August 14, 1882, at Monona. He was born in Mecklenberg, in 1822. He moved to Clayton county in 1864 and was dearly beloved by many of his German friends. He was father of Charles Reugnitz, who for many years was the treasurer of the county.

*Alonzo Winkley* died December 2, 1882. He was born in New Hampshire, in 1821, and was a member of the legislature of that state. He entered the produce business in McGregor in 1862 and later moved to Monona. He was an ardent Democrat and a man highly respected in his community.

*Otto Blaul* died December 4, 1882, at Volga City. He was born in Bavaria in 1839, coming to the United States in 1854. He was a sailor and enlisted with the United States Navy. At the outbreak of the war he re-enlisted and was in a number of naval engagements, being wounded by the explosion of a torpedo. He came to Volga in 1872 and was a member of the mercantile firm of Meuth & Blaul.

*C. W. Hagensick* died February 14, 1883, at Huron, South Dakota. He was one of the Hagensick family so widely known in the county and for many years a merchant and postmaster at Clayton Center. He moved to Dakota about a year before his death. He was born in Germany in 1824, located in Garnavillo in 1852, engaged in the drug business and later studied medicine and became a physician.

*A. M. Goddard* died March 18, 1883, at McGregor. He was born in Wisconsin, 1854, and located in McGregor in 1861; was co-founder of the Elkador Register with C. H. Otis, in 1877, and died after a long illness.

*Elder D. M. Sterns* died April 13, 1883. He laid out the town of Strawberry Point, was born in Vermont in 1807, came to Strawberry Point in 1856, was known and loved throughout the south part of the county as one of the pioneer preachers.

*Henry Schneider* died August 5, 1883. Born in Germany 1810, settled in Giard township in 1847, residing there continuously and was one of the early farmers in the north part of the county.

*Henry Kellner* was found dead at the Schroeder House, in Elkader, October 22, 1883. He was born in Prussia in 1828 and received a good education in Germany. After much travel he came to the United States, in 1856, and located at Guttenberg, in 1857, being employed by Fleck & Bros. until 1869, when he was elected treasurer of Clayton county by the Republicans. He served ten years in this capacity. After retiring from office he made two trips to Germany. The funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Elkader and H. S. Merritt, Dr. Hoffbauer and S. K. Adams pronounced eulogies at his grave.

*James McGuire* died December 28, 1883, in Clayton township. He was born in Ireland in 1828 and arrived at Clayton in 1854. He served in various township offices and was president of the county agricultural society. He was buried at Garnavillo.

*S. T. Woodward* died at Independence, December 31, 1883. He was born in Vermont in 1828 and settled in Farmersburg township, in 1848. In 1858 he was appointed deputy county clerk, living at Guttenberg, then the county seat. He was admitted to the bar, in 1860, at which time he moved to Elkader. He built the handsome stone residence which commands Elkader from the bluffs on the west side of the river. He was one of the founders of the First National Bank and was a prominent factor in the life of the city for many years. Resolutions signed by R. Noble, S. Murdock and J. O. Crosby were passed by the bar association at the time of his death.

*Christopher Hagensick* died May 1, 1884. He was born in Bavaria in 1799. He came to this county, traveling overland from Ohio, with his friends, J. B. and Wolfgang Schmidt, in 1848, and preëmpted land near Garnavillo. He was the founder of the Hagensick family of this county. He was a successful farmer and a good citizen and died highly respected by all.

*Norman Hamilton* died by his own hand, June 13, 1884. His mental condition had been bad for some months previously and he was not responsible for the deed. He was born in New York, 1831, and purchased land in Clayton county, in 1854. He served as deputy sur-



veyor and was one of the first to import fine stock into the county. He was one of the founders of the agricultural society, was its first secretary and was secretary at the time of his death.

*Peter Karberg* died at Lincoln, Nebraska, July 2, 1884, as a result of an accident. He was a German by birth and came to Clayton county at an early date. He enlisted from this county and was afterwards commissioned as captain and organized the Fifty-First U. S. Colored Infantry, in Louisiana. He was best known as an editor and was connected with German journalism during his later days and at the time of his death was editor of the *Staats Anzeiger* of Lincoln, Nebraska.

*John Downie* died September 21, 1884, at Pony Hollow. He was of Scotch descent and was born in Canada, 1823, and moved with his parents to Clayton county in 1838, settling in Boardman township. Both he and his father were prominent in the life of the county.

*Thomas Casey* died at Cox Creek November 22, 1884. He was born in Ireland, in 1818, and moved to Clayton county in 1854. He was the owner of a fine farm of 320 acres. He was an ardent democrat and it was his anxiety to get the news of the exciting election of 1884, which caused him to drive to Elkader, contracting a severe cold which caused his death.

*Joseph B. Quigley* died November 19, 1884. He was one of the very first settlers of this county, establishing himself near Millville in 1836. He was a man of great intelligence and mechanical ability, and was the father of a distinguished family, his son being the present senator from this county. He resided in Highland township and he was a prominent figure in the county for many years.

*Ambrose P. Cook* died September 4, 1884, from heart disease. He was born in Vermont, 1808, and located in Highland, in 1885. He served as the justice of the peace and as a postmaster and moved to Elkader in 1869.

*Thomas Flaherty* died at Elkport, December 3, 1884. He was born in Ireland, 1808, and moved to East Elkport in 1855. He was known and loved as "Uncle Tom" and left a host of friends in his community.

*S. K. Adams* died at Independence, January 17, 1885. He was a young man, having been born in Virginia in 1850. He came with his parents to Farmersburg in 1856. He taught in the district schools and studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1871. He was deputy school superintendent under John Everall. He was a brilliant young lawyer and was prominent in democratic politics, stumping the county during several campaigns. He was married in October, 1884, and soon after was taken with an illness which developed insanity. He was taken to the hospital at Independence and there died. He was recognized as one of the most brilliant young men of Elkader, and his career would have been one of prominence but for his untimely death.

*S. H. Oathout* died, February 8, 1885, in Monona township. He was born in New York, in 1809, and located in Monona township in 1855. He was the father of a numerous family which was prominent in the county, his son, O. D. Oathout, being county superintendent at the time of his father's death.

*James Tapper* died February 25, 1885. He was born in England, in 1810, and came to America in 1828, engaging first in the fisheries of Newfoundland. He next went to Cuba, where he was engaged in mining. In 1840, he came to McGregors Landing and was employed by the government at Fort Atkinson. He pre-empted land in Giard township and in 1865 represented that township on the board of supervisors, serving for several years. He was one of the organizers of Giard township. He was noted for his honesty and fairness and his adventurous life made him a most agreeable companion.

*Martin Brazil* died, March 11, 1885, from accidental poisoning. He was born in Ireland, in 1801, and located in Clayton in 1841, and was one of the pioneer members of the Catholic church of the county.

*P. C. Young* died at Rock Rapids March 30, 1885. He was a resident of Elkader for a number of years and was very prominent both as a lawyer and as a politician.

*William H. Stephens* died at Garnavillo July 29, 1885. He was born in New Hampshire in 1802 and was Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, in 1838. He was a partner with John Deere at Grand de Tour, Wisconsin, and was connected with the manufacture of the first Deere plows. He located in Garnavillo in 1856. He was a man of high character and held many position of trust in his township.

*W. A. Skinner* died at Elkader, August 9, 1885. He was born in Virginia in 1821 and came to Iowa in 1843 and was employed as a printer on the Miner's Express at Dubuque, one of Iowa's first newspapers. He moved to Elkader in 1866 and for ten years was justice of the peace for Boardman township.

*S. N. Bixby* died May 13, 1886. He was born in Vermont in 1824 and came to Clayton county in 1847. He was principal of the Elkader school from 1873 to 1876. He then studied medicine and located at Strawberry Point, where he was a successful and highly popular physician and a prominent man in the community.

*Luther Patch* died, July 15, 1886, at Elkader. He came to Clayton county, in 1842, and for a time operated the lower ferry at McGregor. He was prominent in the affairs of the county in an early day. In 1876, he moved to Elkader, where he resided with his daughter, Mrs. Samuel Murdock.

*John Garber* died, August 26, 1886. He was born in Virginia in 1818, and located in Elkport in 1848. He at once became prominent in the politics of the county and in 1852 was elected to the legislature. He served as county judge in 1860, being the last to hold that position. He was elected sheriff and, in 1866, he again served in the legislature. He was prominent in republican circles, was chairman of the county committee and was a strong Union man. Later in life he met with financial reverses, his large warehouse at Elkport burning down. His brother Martin was county auditor and state senator in 1882 and his brother Silas was governor of Nebraska. In many ways he was one of the strongest and best men that Clayton county produced.

*F. W. Sherman* died, January 1, 1887, born in New York in 1806. He located in Monona, in 1853, and the last years of his life were spent in Elkader. He was one of the founders of Monona. His death was sudden, following a stroke of paralysis.

*W. J. Gilchrist* died at McGregor, April 7, 1887. He located in McGregor in 1857 and was connected with the organization of the First National Bank. He was a member of the legislature in 1863, was a republican in politics and was one of the strong Union men of the county.

*B. F. Fox* died at McGregor, April 21, 1887. His death came without warning and was caused by heart disease. He lived in Garnavillo from the early days until 1881, when he removed to McGregor. In 1857, he was recorder of Clayton county and he was prominent in the politics of that period, being all his life a member of the democratic party.

*R. C. Place* died May 19, at Elkader. He was born in Vermont in 1835 and located in Elkader in 1858. His brother, L. H. Place, was sheriff of the county and he was a member of the board of supervisors from 1864 to 1871. He was active in securing the building of the court house and was a leader in all the affairs of Elkader. He was a merchant and stock buyer and a man of great popularity.

*Rev. Father J. J. Quigley* died September 10, 1887. He was pastor of the Catholic church of Elkader for twenty years and was active in building up the fine property of that church. A more extended mention will be found in the chapter devoted to the church.

*Ira P. Winter* died, May 14, 1888, near Monona. He was born in New York, 1818, and settled in Monona in 1852. He was justice of the peace and assessor for many years, and was known throughout the county as "Squire Winter." He served as deputy county treasurer and was a man of great information and much native ability and was one of the most popular men in this county.

*George Brinkhaus* died, May 23, 1888, at Mederville. He was born in Cox Creek township, 1855, and was engaged in the mercantile business in the firm of Brinkhaus Bros. at Mederville for many years.

*Fielding Snedigar* died in Elkader, November 21, 1888. He was born in Illinois, in 1822, and came to Clayton county in 1851. In 1861, he became a general merchant in Elkader and in 1864 he formed a partnership with C. F. Stearns. He was postmaster of Elkader from 1861 to 1868 and was one of the strongest Union men of the county. He was a man of the highest integrity and was respected by the entire community.

*William Hunt* died in Mallory township, February 17, 1889. He was born in Pennsylvania, in 1817, and located in Mallory township in 1850, and was one of the leading men of his community.

*Maurice Fleck* died at Guttenberg, June 8, 1889. He was born in Germany, in 1821, and came to Guttenberg in 1850. He was a prominent merchant of that city for many years, the firm being known as Fleck, Bleidung & Co. But a few months before his death Mr. Fleck was forced to make an assignment and financial troubles hastened his death. He was known as an honest and honorable man and was sincerely mourned by many friends.

*Richard Everall* died, April 27, 1890, at Farmersburg. He was born in England, in 1805, and came to Clayton county in 1851. He was one of the organizers of the Congregational church at Farmers-



burg and was the father of John Everall, one of the most prominent citizens of the county.

*L. D. Davis* died at Pickwick, Minnesota, August 18, 1890. He was the son of Hon. Timothy Davis and came to Elkader with his father in 1846. He lived in Elkader for many years and was connected with the Elkader mill. He was noted for his public spiritedness and generosity. He met with business reverses and died in comparative poverty.

*James M. Hill* of St. Olaf died, September 15, 1890. He was known throughout the county as "Yankee Hill." He was born in New York, in 1820, and moved to Clayton county in 1858. He was widely known throughout the county and his tavern at St. Olaf was one of the most popular places of public entertainment.

*J. C. Rounds* died, February 6, 1892. He was born in Massachusetts, in 1818, and settled in Marion township in 1855. He helped to organize the township and was responsible for its receiving the name Marion after having first been christened Morasser. He was prominent in democratic politics and was a member of the legislature in 1873, and prior to that time was a member of the board of supervisors. Although living in a strong republican community he never failed to receive a majority of votes from his township. His record as a citizen and as an official was above reproach.

*Edward Sherman* died, February 6, 1892, at National. He was born in New Hampshire, 1813, and was a continuous resident of Farmersburg township from 1847 to the time of his death.

*Alexander Falconer* died, February 9, 1892, at Communia. He was born in Scotland, in 1805, and came to this country in 1833. He served eleven years in the army, being a veteran of the Seminole and Mexican wars. He came to Clayton county in 1844 and was a prominent farmer of Communia.

*Adam Hofer* died, February 17, 1892. He was born in Baden, in 1821, and made Clayton county his home in 1854. He was the father of Edward and Frank Hofer, for many years editors of the McGregor News.

*William F. Huntting*, president of the Huntting Elevator Company, of McGregor, died suddenly of heart disease, April 29, 1892. He was one of the most prominent grain operators in the northwest and was a man of large means, his estate being estimated at \$500,000. He was closely connected with Diamond Jo Reynolds in his business enterprises, and his death was a distinct loss to the business circles of McGregor. He was born in Long Island, 1828, and settled in McGregor in 1857. He was known at all times for his business ability and great public spirit.

*Rufus Richardson* died, May 2, 1892. He was born in Vermont, 1818, and located at Monona in 1856, where he ran the Egbert House, a noted hostelry of that day. He lived in Wagner township until 1874, when he moved to Elkader, where he spent the remainder of his days.

*Dr. William Hoffbauer* died, July 27, 1892. He was born in Denmark, attended the university of Wurzburg, was a revolutionist and was in prison. After his release from prison he pursued his studies

and graduated from the University of Berlin. He was a member of the German parliament and was so outspoken in his views against monarchy that he was forced to leave the country. He came to America in 1851, and to Guttenberg the same year, where he resided until 1875. The remainder of his life was passed in Guttenberg and Dubuque. He was a man of splendid education and eminent in his profession, a fine orator and a very public spirited citizen. His son-in-law, Alexander Bleidung, represented this county in the legislature.

*Charles Schoch, Sr.*, died at Elkader, November 28, 1892. He was born in Wurtemberg in 1821, came to America in 1844, and to Clayton county in 1853, locating in Elk township, and afterward establishing a blacksmith's shop at Communia. He moved to Elkader in 1863. He acquired a competency and earned the esteem of all.

*Joseph Bradshaw* died in Sperry township June 15, 1893. He was born in Indiana, 1825, and settled in Clayton county in 1849. He was a member of Company E, Ninth Iowa Volunteers and was a man highly prized by his community. His funeral, at Volga, was attended by a large concourse.

*John Larkin* died July 16, 1893, at Elkader. He was born in Illinois, 1840, and was educated at Sinsinawa college, coming to Clayton county immediately after his graduation. He taught school for some time and studied law under J. O. Crosby and was admitted to the bar. He was married to a daughter of Patrick Uriell. At Elkader he was in partnership with Samuel Murdock and he became a lawyer of the first rank. He was a profound student and an eloquent orator. At his funeral Reuben Noble, Thomas Updegraff, S. Murdock, D. D. Murphy, J. E. Corlett and T. M. Davidson acted as pallbearers.

*Fred Thoma* died, July 17, 1893, in Grand Meadow township by his own hand. He was born in Germany in 1832 and located at Garnavillo in 1848. He removed to Grand Meadow in 1866. He was in good financial circumstances and no reason was known why he should have ended his life.

*J. M. Leach*, postmaster of Elkader, died September 19, 1893. He was born in Massachusetts, in 1838, and came to Monona, in 1857, engaging in mercantile business. In 1862 he enlisted in Company E, Twenty-seventh Iowa and in 1863 was appointed quartermaster sergeant of the First West Tennessee Infantry. He was mustered out with the rank of first lieutenant. He returned to Monona in 1867, and, in 1872, was deputy auditor under Martin Garber. He was appointed postmaster of Elkader in 1889, which position he held at the time of his death.

*H. F. W. Bothmer* died at Clayton, September 23, 1893. He was born in Germany, 1813, and settled at Clayton in 1851. He was one of the pioneer millers of the county.

*G. A. Appleman* died November 4, 1893, at Elkader. He was born in Connecticut in 1817. He was a sailor and circumnavigated the globe and had sailed all over the known world. In 1854 he left the sea and settled at Garnavillo. His wife was a sister of Hon. E. H. Williams and his daughters were Mrs. H. J. Grotenwohl and Mrs. William Larrabee. He was a man of the kindest disposition and his

vast experience, from sailor boy to sea captain, made him a most delightful companion.

*Rev. W. B. Smith* died at Osterdock, November 13, 1893. He was born in Vermont, 1811. He began his career as a preacher in 1832. He lived in Elkader and vicinity for many years and was the friend and counsellor of all. He served three years in the Union army and during this time his health was greatly impaired. He was the youngest brother of Joseph Smith, the great Mormon prophet, and he was a believer in his brother and in the Mormon faith. His brothers, Joseph and Hiram were shot at Nauvoo, Illinois, while he was in Philadelphia on a mission for his church. Returning to Nauvoo, he found that Brigham Young had seized the leadership of Mormonism and had announced the doctrine of polygamy. Mr. Smith refused to accept this and never affiliated with the polygamist branch of the church. He was buried at the church of the Latter Day Saints of Osterdock and he was beloved by all who knew him.

*William A. Penfield*, for many years one of the leading citizens of Volga, died, December 2, 1893. He was born in New York, in 1819, and first settled in Iowa, in Sperry township, in 1864. He established a furniture and undertaking business in Volga, in 1874, and held many township offices and was coroner of Clayton county. He was an ardent Republican and was conspicuous in political and fraternal circles. He was a man of considerable literary ability and his writings appear frequently in the newspapers of the county.

*Edward Dickens* died, January 17, 1894, at McGregor. He built the first log cabin in Clayton county, and he was one of the most popular of the pioneers. At reunions he was a conspicuous figure and his stories of the early days delighted the people. His funeral was attended by large numbers of pioneers from all over the county and Judge Murdock pronounced a eulogy at his grave.

*Judge L. O. Hatch* died at McGregor, July 19, 1894. He was born in Ohio, in 1826. He had few school advantages but was a great student and was able to teach school when but 18 years of age. While teaching he studied law and was admitted to the bar, in 1849. For eighteen months he travelled for the American Anti-slavery society, distributing literature and delivering addresses in opposition to slavery, at a time when that was a dangerous occupation. He came to Iowa in 1853, taught school in Delaware county and, in 1854, located at Waukon. Here he practiced law until January 1, 1869, when he removed to McGregor, forming a partnership with Reuben Noble, the firm being Noble, Hatch & Frese. This partnership continued until 1874, when Mr. Noble became judge. Mr. Hatch continued to practice law in McGregor until 1882, when he was elected to the judgeship, which position he was filling at the time of his death. In politics he was a Republican until his later years, when he became an ardent Democrat. He was one of the ablest jurists this county has known. His death resulted from an accident which occurred in January, 1894. Going from North McGregor to McGregor he was carried by the station. He attempted to make a short cut to Main street and fell off the trestle, a distance of fifteen feet, to the rocks below. Both legs were broken, and from this injury he never recovered.



His funeral was attended by members of the bar from every county in the district, and he was universally mourned. After his death the Milwaukee railroad was sued for damages on account of the accident, but, after long litigation, the case was decided against the estate.

*Daniel Brownson* died, July 23, 1894, at National. He was born in New York in 1813, came to Clayton county, in 1846, and bought a farm in Farmersburg township. He was noted as a breeder of fine horses and live stock and did much to raise the standards of agriculture in the county.

*C. L. McGonigle* died, February 12, 1895, at Monona. He was born in Pennsylvania, in 1836, and moved, with his parents, to Monona, in 1847. He engaged in business in Monona and, in 1876, was elected county recorder as a Democrat. In 1893, he represented the county faithfully in the legislature. He was a very popular man and one of the leaders of democracy.

*Charles Mentzel* died at his home in Cox Creek township March 18, 1895, as the result of an accident. His team became unmanageable and he was thrown from his buggy, injuring his head. Mr. Mentzel was born in Saxony, in 1831. He received a liberal education and served in the Saxon army. He came to Garnaville in 1854, and, in 1859, bought his farm in Cox Creek township. Mr. Mentzel was almost continuously in public service, being a township officer, a member of the board of supervisors and serving two terms in the legislature. For many years he was secretary of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Communia. His funeral was attended by large numbers from all over the county. Charles Reugnitz delivered an address in German and John Everall spoke in English. Charles Mentzel was a typical German-American citizen, loving his fatherland and cherishing its memories, but with a stronger love for his adopted home and a greater pride in his American citizenship.

*John Paddelford* died in California, April 4, 1895. He was one of the old settlers of Sperry township and underwent all the hardships incident to pioneer life. He located in Clayton county in 1842. He prospered in business and at the time of his death was the owner of 1,540 acres of Clayton county land. He was known and loved as "Uncle John" and he was a prime favorite at all meetings of the pioneers. On account of failing health he moved to California a few years prior to his death.

*Dr. Frederic Andros* died April 28, 1895, at the home of his daughter, at Minneapolis, at the advanced age of 92 years. He was the first regular physician to locate west of the Mississippi, and for many years a prominent figure in the history of Clayton county and northern Iowa, being the first clerk of the courts and first recorder of the county. He was born, September 14, 1802, at Berkley, Massachusetts, the son of Rev. Thomas Andros, a soldier of the Revolution and a man noted for his classical and theological learning. After receiving his medical education, Dr. Andros removed to Plymouth, in western New York, where he married Eliza Bunker, a descendant of the original owner of Bunker Hill. Soon they removed to Paris, Canada, where he, becoming mixed up in a revolutionary conspiracy which was revealed by a traitor, was obliged to make his escape in the night. He made his

way to Detroit, and was joined by his wife. He was at Detroit just in time to assist in quelling an epidemic of the cholera.

In October, 1834, he joined a party starting for the lead mines of Illinois and Iowa and located at Dubuque, and was the only physician west of the Mississippi then legally entitled to practice. In 1838, he took up a claim near Garnavillo, and adjoining Judge Murdock's old farm, and there his eldest son was born, one of the first children born in the township, fifty-six years ago. In 1843, the doctor was elected to represent northern Iowa in the territorial legislature. In that body he secured the passage of a bill changing the county seat from Guttenburg to Jacksonville, now Garnavillo. In 1846, he was appointed physician to the Winnebago Indians and with them went to Minnesota, where, in 1854, he was elected to the legislature. Later, he returned to his Garnavillo home, where he resided until 1861, and then moved to McGregor. In 1879, Mrs. Andros died from injuries received in a railroad wreck the previous year. Dr. Andros then moved to Mitchell, South Dakota, where he practiced, but, in 1899, he retired from active life, owing to the failure of his eyesight. No man enters so intimately into the lives of the people as does the family doctor and Dr. Andros was the confidential friend and advisor of the whole county in the early days. Many a man was indebted to him not only for professional services but for friendship and counsel. He must be named and remembered as one of the very foundation stones upon which the civilization of Clayton county was built.

*O. B. Blanchard* died May 11, 1895, at Edgewood. He was born in New York in 1823. He was one of the stage drivers in the early days in Pennsylvania and in Wisconsin. In 1871, he visited his brother, Dr. L. Blanchard at Yankee Settlement and was so impressed with the possibilities of the country that he remained, he and his brother platting the village of Edgewood. He was postmaster for four years, following 1885, was president of the bank of Edgewood and was one of the strong financial factors of the southern part of the county.

*William P. Eno* died suddenly at his home in Wagner township, July 15, 1895. He was born in Canada in 1828. He was employed as a travelling salesman until 1854, when he purchased land in Wagner township and made this county his home. He increased his land holdings until he owned more than 1,500 acres. He was postmaster at Wagner, held many township offices and was one of the founders of the Clayton County Fire Insurance Company. He was radical in politics and was a leader in the Greenback and Peoples party movement. He was known as the "Sage of Wagner."

*G. Henry Frese*, partner in law business with Noble and Hatch, at McGregor, died August 17, 1895. He was born in Germany in 1841, locating in Guttenberg in 1855 and moved to McGregor in 1861, where he entered the office of Noble and Drummond as a clerk. He remained as an employe until 1869, his health failed and he was forced to give up office work and he acted as deputy sheriff for some time. His health being somewhat restored he again entered the office with Judge Noble, but the confinement of office work soon ended his life.

He was a brilliant attorney and had his health permitted would have been one of the leaders of the bar of the county.

*August Borman* died November 25, 1895, at Davenport where he had gone to consult a specialist. He was born in Hanover, 1840, and came with his parents to Boardman township in 1852. In 1882 he was elected sheriff and served two terms. He was noted for his charity and good heartedness and had a wide circle of friends.

*Victor Baleff* died January 13, 1896, at Strawberry Point. He was born in Wurtemberg, 1843, and came to Clayton county, in 1856. He enlisted in Company H. Sixteenth Iowa, and was with Sherman on the march to the sea. He was a business man of Strawberry Point and was a man well liked by all.

*J. H. Shoulte* died January 24, 1896, at Garnavillo. He was born in Hanover, 1820, and settled in Reed township in 1856. He was prominent in the early history of the county and held many positions of trust.

*E. W. Stewart* died at the home of his son-in-law, R. E. Price, in Elkader, April 6, 1896. He was born in New York, 1813, and settled in Highland township, in 1853. He was attracted to the gold-fields in the west, but returned to Elkader after four years and, after the death of his wife, in 1872, he made his home with his daughter, Mrs. R. E. Price.

*H. B. Carter* died April 22, 1896, at Los Angeles, Cal. He was born in Ohio in 1825, and came to Grand Meadow township in 1847, moving to Elkader in 1850, where he was one of the principal merchants for many years. He was the first president of the First National Bank of Elkader and, in 1856, was elected state senator. He disposed of his interests in Elkader in 1885 and moved to Ashland, Ore.

*Buel Knapp* died at Luverne, Minn., July 17, 1896. He was born in New York in 1827 and moved to Elkader in 1854. In 1870 he went to McGregor where for a number of years he was editor of the North Iowa Times. He left the county in 1880.

*Hon. Reuben Noble* died August 8, 1896, at McGregor. He was one of the most able men of Clayton county and was prominent in its history for nearly half a century. A sketch of his life appears in another chapter.

*M. B. Sherman* died August 5, 1896, at Farmersburg. He was born in New Hampshire in 1816, and made his home in Farmersburg township in 1845. For a number of years he was the oldest living settler of the county. His death was caused by a fall which broke his thigh bone.

*Henry Froehlich* died August 6, 1896. He was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1812, and emigrated to this county in 1847. The town of Froehlich is named in his honor. He was a typical German-American, honest, upright and industrious.

*George L. Gifford* died September 7, 1896. He was born in New York in 1824 and came to Clayton county in 1836. He took an active part in county affairs and was a member of the board of supervisors. His career included that of farmer, merchant and hotel keeper.

*Casper Becker* died October 26, 1896, at Clayton. He was born in France in 1813 and came to America in 1840. He enlisted in the



regular army and saw service in the Seminole war and later at Fort Atkinson. He settled in Clayton township in 1845, and at his death was the owner of 555 acres of land. He was a prominent member of the Catholic church of the county.

*Ingle Chapman* died October 23, 1896. He was born in England in 1830, and came to Clayton county in 1856. He was one of the pioneers of Volga.

*J. B. Shelhammer* died Dec. 8, 1896. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1824. He lived in the various parts of Iowa and Minnesota, and settled in Elkader in 1857. He enlisted in the First Iowa cavalry veteran volunteers.

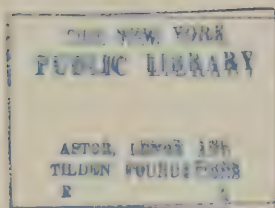
*Samuel Murdock* died January 27, 1897, at Elkader. More than any other man he was identified with the history of Clayton county in every phase from its origin until the time of his death, and his activities only ended with his life. A sketch of this distinguished citizen appears in another chapter.

*Patrick Dinan* died July 9, 1898, at Littleport as a result of an accident when he fell from a load of hay. He was born in Ireland in 1822 and settled in Cox Creek township in 1857. Here, in almost unbroken wilderness, he and his wife struggled with the problems of the pioneers and by years of labor gained a competence for himself and family.

*James T. Partch* died, May 21, 1899, at Elkader. He was born in Vermont, 1817, and settled in Farmersburg township in 1848. He removed to Elkader in 1856 and he and his wife were among the most dearly beloved of Elkader people. He was one of the founders of the Universalists church of Boardman township. The Masonic fraternity conducted his obsequies.

*E. R. Barron* died March 23, 1897, at La Crosse, Wisconsin. He was born in New Hampshire, 1829, and came to McGregor in 1856 with ex-Governor Samuel Merrill and bought the mercantile business of Jones and Bass, the firm being Merrill & Barron. At the beginning of the war he bought the Merrill interests and the firm became E. R. Barron & Bros. In 1886, he moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, but retained his interests at McGregor and was a frequent visitor at that city. Upon coming to McGregor he identified himself with every interest of the city and of him the McGregor Times said at the time of his death: "Better than any monument which artisan may rear, is that which is erected in the hearts of his townsmen who will always remember him as a noble, kindly gentleman."









PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, GUTTENBERG, IOWA



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF GUTTENBERG, IOWA

## CHAPTER XII

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### THE NEW CENTURY—1900-1916

COUNTY GOVERNMENT—TAX STATEMENT—GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT—SOLDIERS' MONUMENTS—MISCELLANEOUS COUNTY EVENTS—OLD SETTLERS—SCHOOL SYSTEM—SOCIAL LIFE—FINANCIAL CONDITIONS—CASUALTY AND CRIME—FLOOD OF 1916—CRIMINAL SENSATIONS—COUNTY SEAT EVENTS—OPERA HOUSE—SCHOOL BUILDING—MCGREGOR INCIDENTS—PEARL BUTTON INDUSTRY—SAND MOSAICS—PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK—PIKES PEAK—PICTURED ROCKS—THE HAND OF DEATH—20TH. CENTURY POLITICS—DEATH OF CHAS. REUGNITZ—ROOSEVELT CAMPAIGN—ELECTION OF 1908—FIRST PRIMARY—MURPHY-HAUGEN CONTEST—CAMPAIGN OF 1912—RECENT POLITICS—SUFFRAGE ELECTION.

THE new century, although it has run its course less than sixteen full years, has been the most awe-inspiring period of the world's history. More has been accomplished during these years; more has occurred to alter the destinies of mankind, than has been crowded into any other century since the birth of Christ. Science and invention have revolutionized every industry and have made common-place, in almost every home, luxuries which would have surpassed the wildest dreams of Roman Emperors. Most unfortunately, this great tide of invention has been accompanied by a tide of materialism, in which idealism has been largely lost and the wonder-works, which might have added so greatly to the joy of living have been turned into engines of destruction; man's baser passions have ruled and the whole world is black with war. This has gone on until the senses have been numbed. Horrors, which would have chilled the blood but a few years ago, have become every day occurrences, and the destruction of cities, the devastation of kingdoms, the starvation of races, the killing of thousands and the mutilation of thousands upon thousands more, have become ordinary items from our daily news. Death surges up from the depths of the sea and hurtles from the clouds, poisonous gases asphyxiate whole regiments and unseen guns hurl tons of explosive shells upon unseen fortifications.

In the midst of this strife, which threatens the very existence of our civilization, it is like going from darkness into light, from storm

to calm, from the funeral to the marriage feast, to turn from the scenes of carnage to the peace and prosperity of Clayton county. How long the sound of guns may be but echoes, how long before the war cloud which hangs over all Europe and which lowers upon our border, may swoop over the western hemisphere no man may know. "The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on." Blessed, indeed, is this fairest portion of the fairest land, where peace and plenty reign amidst a world gone mad.

Thus far, the years, which have brought such havoc to millions, have been filled with nothing but prosperity for the people of Clayton county. It has been a time of progress, of the perfecting of things old and the beginning of things new. While population has decreased, wealth has increased, largely. New impulse has been given to agriculture and to home making and, whereas, all was done with an eye to present and temporary necessity, there is now apparent in every move and in every construction the idea of permanency and an assured and stable future. The first expression of this was in the great stone arch bridge which spans the Turkey river and which was built, seemingly, not for time but for eternity. All over the county the frail wooden structures are being replaced by bridges and culverts of cement and stone; gravel and macadamized highways are taking the place of the old dirt roads and, in the cities, the macadam is, in turn, giving way to brick. Public buildings are being erected with fireproof construction and the most substantial material. In fact the keynote of the history of Clayton county, since 1900, is this idea of permanency; the thought that this is home and is to be the home, not only of this but of future generations, and that it is worth while to make present sacrifice that that home may be made as beautiful, as comfortable and as complete as possible.

The population of Clayton county in 1890, exclusive of its towns, was 21,752; in 1900, these figures had decreased to 19,632; by 1910, 3,000 more had left the farm and the population was 16,436, and, in the five years ending with 1915, 1,000 more had gone, leaving the rural population of the county at 14,431. In the meantime, the towns of the county had shown an increase nearly corresponding to the loss in the country. In 1890, the towns had a population of 4,981; by 1900 this was nearly double, the figures being 8,118; in the next census period, of the 3,000 who had left the farm, 1,000 evidently remained in the county, for the towns show an increase of that number and the combined urban population was 9,240. Again, in 1915, a portion of the rural loss is city gain and the towns in the county at the close of that year had a combined population of 9,700. This village population was divided among eighteen communities; running from 1,873, at Guttenberg to 97 at Osterdock. The gain both in city and county, however, did not keep pace with the birth rate and two things are apparent, one, that the farmer, growing older and wealthier, has retired and has removed to the village, there to enjoy the added comforts of community life; and the other, that Clayton county is constantly sending out to the world its best and most adventurous youth and that the fledglings are leaving the home-nest and giving to the nation the best product of its farms and homes, in the shape of splendid men



and women. Just as, during the Civil war, it was the boys from the farms of such counties as Clayton, which saved the Union, so now, it is the leaven of common sense, integrity and sturdy manhood from such counties as these that are the hope and the salvation of our country.

While Clayton county has lost in population it has gained amazingly in wealth and culture, in the observance of law and order and in all the refinements of civilization. In 1834, there were 1,429 polls in the county and the gross amount of taxable property was \$19,163.34, showing a per capita wealth of approximately \$13 for each voter. In 1900 the 27,750 people of the county had property of the taxable value of \$5,818,477; in 1910, whereas the population had decreased more than 2,000, the tax value had increased nearly \$2,000,000; the valuation for that year being \$7,531,684. Again, in 1915, with a decrease of population of nearly 500, the taxable value had increased another \$2,000,000, the figures being \$9,623,941 and the assessed value, supposedly the actual value, was \$38,495,764. With all due respect to assessments and tax valuations, it would be safe to say that the real wealth of Clayton county, on a market basis, would exceed \$50,000,000, giving a per capita wealth of approximately \$2,000. Not only this, but in few communities is wealth more evenly distributed and, while there are rich and poor, there are no overwhelming fortunes and the wealth of the county is not lodged in the hands of a few. With this firm basis of wealth and prosperity, which nothing short of a cataclysm of nature or of man can destroy, it is no wonder that Clayton county has progressed marvelously and that, within a generation, the county has never felt the pinch of poverty nor the real stress of hard times. After all, time is an essence of history, and the more recent the event the more difficult to write of it; for the very nearness destroys the perspective and time alone brings into view the rugged peaks which are of real historic value. Therefore, it is possible only to touch upon those matters which are apparently characteristic of the period and which will give future generations some idea of Clayton county as it was in the early years of the twentieth century.

*County Government*—Concerning the affairs relative to county government, the year 1900 had barely opened when ex-Governor William Larrabee, then a member of the state board of control, threw a bomb shell into camp by the way of a severe criticism of the brand new county asylum which was the pride of Clayton's heart. The governor's strictures upon the asylum were harsh and he likened the cells to cages for wild animals. This aroused a storm of resentment, and the fact that the asylum had been occupied but a few days and that there had not been time to perfect details and plan a definite course of conduct, makes the criticism appear to have been unjust. It was the effort of the board to meet the requirements of the state board which, later, led the supervisors into difficulty; for, in 1903, the supervisors bought the Losch farm of fifty-two acres, adjacent to the hospital, for the sum of \$4,000. This was technically illegal and, in August, 1903, a petition containing four counts was filed against the supervisors. They were charged with the payment of \$2,300 for real estate without a vote of the people; with paying \$1,669.89 to F. E. Heckel, against

the advice of the county attorney; with the purchase of the Losch farm without the consent of the people and with appropriating \$75 to the Iowa Publishing Company for the insertion of county statistics in a state book then being published. The case was submitted before the court, in October, and it was held that, in regard to real estate purchases, the board had exceeded its authority, but without wrong intent; that the \$75 appropriation was within the discretion of the board, and that no corruption was shown in regard to the Heckel case. Prior to the death of the treasurer, Reugnitz, F. E. Heckel was school treasurer of Millville township. Not having occasion to visit Elkader frequently and having no safe place of deposit for funds, it was his custom to leave school funds in the county treasury, paying school expenses by check and reimbursing himself, from time to time, from the treasury. In this way he would receipt for warrants and return them to the treasurer to be credited to him. When the affairs of the treasurer's office were overhauled, after Mr. Reugnitz's death, a receipted warrant for \$1,670 was found. Mr. Heckel acknowledged the signature, but claimed that he had never received the money. It was this warrant which the board ordered paid.

In January, 1901, the county employed a firm of so-called "tax ferrets" to go over the books and search for property which had escaped taxation. This firm was allowed a commission of 15 per cent. The assessed valuation for 1901 was increased \$406,248 without the aid of ferrets and Clayton led the state in tax valuation. The ferrets were active and, in August, 1901, it was reported that they had collected \$1,894 in a single week and had arranged for the payment of \$10,000 more. The ferrets completed their work in February, 1902, having collected \$34,762. They returned and, in March, 1903, it was reported that they had turned into the treasury \$43,323 which, less commissions, etc., netted the county \$34,199. It was at their instance, also, that, in 1901, the county brought suit against Mary Reynolds and the "Diamond Jo" estate for \$160,000 taxes due, Joseph Reynolds having died in 1895, leaving an estate valued at \$2,800,000.

Among the other incidents of county government was the suit brought against Joseph Vogt for obtaining over payment on bridge contracts. The case was tried in Allamakee county and Vogt claimed that he was sick at the time measurements were taken, that they were taken by others and that he had refunded the money as soon as the error was discovered. Upon this showing he was acquitted.

Despite the efforts of the tax ferrets and the increased tax receipts, it was found, by September, 1904, that the county finances were in bad shape and that a bond issue was necessary. There were stamped warrants outstanding in excess of \$19,000 and a bond issue of \$24,000 was resorted to, to maintain the credit of the county and to prevent loss of those holding county warrants. In 1908, the board at a special session ordered a vote on the proposal to spend \$10,000 for the purchase of the Leonard farm as an addition to the hospital grounds, but this proposal was defeated. In 1909, the main building on the county farm in Read township was destroyed by a fire in which one inmate, an unknown tramp, lost his life. It was necessary to rebuild and, in July, a contract was let for \$7,965. It was at this



session, also, that, under a new law, banks of deposit were first designated for the county funds. Bounties offered at this session were as follows, for gophers, 5 cents; ground hogs, 25 cents; rattle snakes, 50 cents. Extensive improvements were made in the court house, in 1902, the small vaults being replaced by large ones of modern construction. The vaults cost \$2,190, and the metal furniture cost \$2,650. In 1903, a barn was built at the poor farm at a cost of \$2,645 and, in 1907, \$2,000 was expended for a steel ceiling for the court room and other interior improvements.

It was in 1911 and 1912 that the automobile tax became available. The first receipts from this source were, on August 12, 1911, \$1,266.54; April, 1912, \$3,215.67; August, 1912, \$2,205.48. These added receipts and the changes in the road law of the state made for a decided improvement in the roads of the county and, in January, 1913, the supervisors selected the county roads under the new law, designating 225 miles as state highways. In March, 1914, the roads were surveyed and the patrol system started. The county was divided into districts containing approximately ten miles each and patrolmen employed for dragging and repairs. Two grader outfits were bought for the heavier work and bridge contracts to the amount of \$45,701 were let. By April, 1914, work was being done, by blasting and excavating on the McGregor road near the Frank Bente farm and the Stevenson hill was prepared for gravelling. The funds available for road and bridge purposes reached nearly \$100,000, as follows, county road, \$10,235.42; township road, \$29,938.87; road dragging, \$8,443.30; bridge, \$51,176.51, and thus, for highways of the county was available nearly twice the sum of the total county expense in the 60's. This money is, for the most part, being wisely expended and should in a few years, with the splendid natural resources, which Clayton county has in the way of rock and gravel, result in its having the best roads and bridges in Iowa. In June, 1912, the bridge contract made with P. N. Kingsley was annulled by the board for failure of performance and the bonding company held to complete it. The excellent character of the modern road and bridge work is shown by the fact that in the flood of June 1, 1916, which was the highest the county has ever known, no permanent bridges were lost and new road grades were left in good condition. The county lost eighteen bridges and culverts in this flood and two crews were put at work preparing roads, although this work was impeded, and the cost of dragging increased, by the continued wet weather throughout the month of June.

Below is given the statement of the total taxes collectible in Clayton county, in 1916, for the year preceding. This table does not include internal revenue, income and stamp taxes, paid to the general government, nor the automobile licenses paid to the state, nor any other licenses paid to towns and county. With these items added, and without considering any indirect taxation, it will appear that, in 1916, the people of Clayton county will pay in excess of \$500,000, for the support of their government and its institutions. Such is the prosperity and wealth of the county, however, that this tax, which would have been absolutely confiscatory fifty years ago, is borne lightly and public sentiment supports movements for added expense when it is believed



that the improvements are necessary and will be permanent. The following is the tax table for 1915:

## CLAYTON COUNTY TAXES FOR 1915

General state.....	\$ 41,671.66
General state tax on money and credits.....	2,043.75
Capital extension tax.....	1,636.06
Capital extension tax on money and credits.....	80.22
General county tax including bonds.....	70,671.68
Poor .....	8,076.73
Soldiers relief.....	2,019.20
Bridge .....	50,479.83
City .....	31,193.21
Insane tax state hospital.....	10,095.92
Insane tax county hospital.....	2,019.20
County school.....	10,095.92
District school.....	168,922.75
County road or permanent road.....	10,095.92
County road buildings.....	16,791.61
Township roads.....	26,904.48
Road dragging.....	8,453.00
Miscellaneous .....	945.99
Poll .....	3,426.50
Dog .....	2,767.00
Delinquent road.....	1,776.58
Grand total.....	\$470,167.21

*Good Roads Movement*—Much of the credit for the good roads movement, which has been one of the most prominent features of Iowa's development since 1900, must be given to the automobile and to the enthusiasm of automobile owners. By this date, 1916, the automobile has almost driven the horse from the highways of Clayton county. The horse-drawn carriage is the exception and, except for the hauling of produce, the horse is rarely seen upon the road. Owing to the nature of the country which makes railroad building expensive, although the railway mileage is large, inter-county communication is poor. Garnaville is perhaps the largest, and certainly it is the most prosperous, inland town in Iowa. Save for the branch line to Beulah, by which it is connected with McGregor and Monona, the county seat is inaccessible to the people of the county, except by the highways.

These conditions have made the automobile almost indispensable and there are hundreds of cars owned in the county, it being one of the first counties in Iowa, and in the United States, in the point of automobile ownership. At first, in this, as in other localities, the good roads movement was regarded as a selfish interest largely for the enjoyment of the wealthy motorists, but when every well-to-do farmer owned a machine, the necessity for good roads was appreciated. Auto clubs and good roads clubs were formed in the various towns, thoroughfares were marked with signboards and legislation was promoted. One of the most simple but most effective inventions was the King drag and

Professor King was brought to Elkader and exhibited the drag for the benefit of the people. Still later, a law became effective by which county supervisors and road supervisors held a general meeting each year. These doubtless did much to spread general information about road work. The greatest step in advance, however, was when the state highway commission was created and systematic work, under the guidance of experts, was begun. It is hard to believe that the first automobile was owned in this county in 1902. It was called a locomobile, was propelled by steam and was owned by J. O. Crosby, of Garnavillo. The McGregor Times speaks of this machine, in August, 1902, and says that Mr. Crosby had owned it since spring, that he had no instructions and had some difficulty in getting it started and in learning to operate it. The Times also says that the automobile is not new and calls attention to an item in its files of 1857, telling of a steam wagon which had been constructed to carry forty people, fifteen miles per hour, for use in New Mexico. Mr. Hunting, of McGregor also bought a machine about this time and T. M. Davidson had the first automobile in Elkader and was also the owner of the first motorcycle in the county. The Auto Club, of Elkader, and the Auto Trail Club, of McGregor, have both done much for good roads. In April, 1916, delegates from this county attended a meeting at Cedar Rapids at which the Park Trail was organized. This route is to run from Ottumwa to McGregor, the towns in this county, on the route, being Edgewood, Littleport, Elkader, Giard and McGregor. Another route also is being planned along the west shore of the Mississippi and this also is being promoted by the enthusiasts at McGregor.

In spite of the large amount of taxes, the county receipts did not keep pace with expenditures and, in September, 1915, the supervisors proposed a bond issue of \$75,000 to take up outstanding warrants. In October, this resolution was amended to the issuance of \$25,000 bonds at that time and \$50,000 after January 1, 1916. The bonds were sold to the Continental and Commercial Savings Bank of Chicago.

The bounties offered by the county proved effective, for in one week, in September, bounties were paid for forty-one rattle snakes and the succeeding week for fifty-six and for the year 1915, the bounties paid were as follows, for pocket gopher, 4,635 at 10 cents, \$463.50; ground hogs, 11,101, at 15 cents, \$1,665.15; rattle snakes, 1,605, at 50 cents, \$802.50, making a total of nearly \$3,000 for the year.

*Soldiers' Monuments*—Among the other acts of the supervisors which were of interest was the appointment of T. M. Davidson, J. C. Barnes and B. W. Newberry as a soldiers relief commission. Under this commission the soldiers of the county have been cared for and three monuments have been erected, one at Strawberry Point, one at Monona and one at McGregor, thus carrying out the project of the "cenotaph association" urged by Eliphalet Price more than fifty years ago. The monument at McGregor was the last dedicated, appropriate exercises being held on Memorial Day, 1916, with Hon. Carl F. Kuehnle of Denison, Iowa, as the orator. This work is done by means of a one mill tax and it is expected to provide monuments at other

cemeteries in the county where numbers of the soldier dead are buried.

*Miscellaneous County Events*—In 1914, an accident occurred at a bridge in Wagner township. John Schmidt was driving across this bridge when it went down and he was killed. Suit was brought against the county and the case was tried in Fayette county, resulting in a verdict of \$9,000 for the plaintiff. This case cost the county in the neighborhood of \$10,000. Schmidt Bros. & Co. received a license, in 1915, to erect a transformer station in connection with the extension of electric power lines to Garnavillo and Guttenberg, and the line was completed to Garnavillo and electricity supplied to that town in April, 1916, and prior to that time electric power had been supplied from McGregor to Giard and Monona. Rural free delivery was another great blessing which came to the people at the beginning of the century. In January, 1901, the postmaster of Elkader started petitions to secure rural routes and this was followed by a meeting of citizens, held in February, at which three routes were planned. The first route in the county was out of Farmersburg, July 1, 1901, at which time the stage line, from McGregor to National, was abandoned. Rural routes were planned throughout the county and, in July, 1903, the three routes out of Elkader were established. These brought numerous changes in the postal service, led to the abandonment of several postoffices and almost entirely did away with the star route service, although this service is maintained to Garnavillo and between Elkader and Osborne. The parcel post system was instituted January 1, 1913.

Other features of the county life was the increased attention paid to agricultural matters. Farmers institutes were held in various parts of the county and short courses in agriculture, at which time prizes were offered for corn. The first short course was held in Elkader, in 1913, and was a great success. A. J. Carpenter was manager and F. L. Hochaus & Sons won the prizes for both yellow and white corn. Another successful institute was held at McGregor, in February, 1914, and, in June, 1914, a farm investigation tour was conducted by experts from the State Agricultural College, at which time the farms of J. L. Cords, Julius Christeleit, John Ehrhardt, D. F. Willmes, J. F. Johnson, H. H. Diers, A. F. Kramer, and Frank Nugent were visited. The crops throughout all this period were good, with the exception of the year 1915, when a wet season and early frost did great damage. Prices were fair and Clayton maintained its reputation as one of the great producing counties of the state. In 1902, Clayton stood fourth in butter shipments, the total for the year being 2,503,524 pounds. It also led all northeastern Iowa in production of fruits, receiving the first premium among forty counties. A peculiar industry was that established by Burgess and Hanson, at Luana, where they started a herd of native buffalo. This was such a curiosity that excursions were run from Monona and the buffalo ranch had many visitors. Old Tom, the leader of the herd, was shot in 1901, and the head was sold to the Smithsonian Institute for \$600, the carcass bringing, in all, in the neighborhood of \$1,000. Later, the herd was sold at auction, Frank Rockefeller being the principal buyer.

In 1901, occurred the death of Andrew Thompson, the confessed



murderer of the Hagerty family. For a third of a century he had been in the penitentiary, and there he died at the age of 76. He left an estate of some \$20,000 to his wife and he requested that he be buried in Clayton county, but this wish was disregarded and his body was sacrificed upon the altar of science at Iowa City.

*Old Settlers*—Interest in the old settlers was revived by the McGregor Times by an inquiry as to the oldest settler in the county then living. There were numerous claimants for this honor, among whom were Mrs. Ellen Tapper, widow of James Tapper, who came to McGregor, in 1840; Levi Springer, whose father settled at Millville, in 1836, and who stated that the log house was still standing where Judge Murdock plead his first case. Marshall Hatfield was another claimant for the honor, he having come with his father, Robert Hatfield, to Turkey river, in 1833. The Times ran an excellent old settlers edition, and this, and comment created thereby, caused Colonel Eiboeck, then of Des Moines, to write of old times in Clayton county as follows:

"It is sad to reflect, however, that of all the men mentioned in the Old Settlers' Edition but two are living, Thomas Updegraff and J. O. Crosby. Everyone of those pioneers was a personal friend and patron. What would we not give to be able to shake their honest old paws again. Tom Updegraff would certainly join us once more upon a Fourth of July excursion with hard cider as a stimulant to awaken the slumbering echoes of Buck Creek. Honest John Garber would shake his sides to recall the county seat contests of the 60's, while good old John Kriebs of Guttenburg, justice of the peace in Jefferson township, Clayton county, state of Iowa, would invite us aside to something real good. Judge Murdock, always the most hospitable of men, would not think of letting us go out of his sight for a week and Elijah Odell would forget his Methodistic predilection for a time and join us and Reuben Noble in trying who could do the most for the other. Oh, that they were yet living! Old Clayton county would see such a jubilee as she has never known, God bless the memory of those old pioneers." Other reminders of the old times were the three golden weddings which occurred in the same family during the year 1903; the couples being Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Corlett, Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Crawford and Mr. and Mrs. John Orr; and the first of the family reunions of the Bickel family, which were, for some years notable events in Giard township.

Many railroad projects were still on foot. In 1901, Garnavillo organized the Garnavillo & Guttenburg Railway Company and engineers were engaged to survey the route. In 1909, there was much interest in the rumor that the Volga line was to be extended to Mason City and made a main line of travel.

*School System*—The schools of the county also made progress both in town and country. In 1901, St. Olaf dedicated its new school house with appropriate ceremonies. There were two rooms, with Miss Knudson as principal and Miss Reugnitz as teacher. The teachers institutes were well attended and "teachers inspirational" meetings were held, successfully, at different towns of the county. In 1915, the law governing the election of county superintendent, was changed

so that, instead of being a partisan, elective office, it became an appointive office at the hands of representatives of the different school districts of the county. Auditor John Adam issued the call for the first election, under this new method, and the school convention was held April 6, 1915. D. D. Murphy presided and John Adam acted as secretary. Carl F. Becker received 39 votes for superintendent and T. R. Roberts two votes and Mr. Becker was declared elected. There were at this meeting representatives of eighteen township schools and sixteen independent districts besides rural independent districts. The October, 1915, number of the *Midland Schools* gave Superintendent Carl F. Becker the following compliment: "County Superintendent Carl F. Becker, of Clayton county, is doing some good work up in his corner of the state. He has introduced a system of credit for home work which is a great help in arousing interest in the rural schools. He is planning a series of township meetings for this coming winter in which special stress will be laid on better rural schools. He and his teachers are abolishing all the common water buckets from the rural schools. He has started two consolidations of rural schools which he hopes to carry through successfully this winter. It is men of his aggressive type who are needed in the rural school work to advance them to the same high standard as the city schools are attaining." This compliment is well deserved and under the new, non-partisan control with Mr. Becker as superintendent the schools of the county are in splendid condition. There were in the county, in 1916, 140 rural school districts with 164 rooms employing 164 teachers. The enrollment of the rural schools was 3,066. There were also 16 independent school districts, employing 18 men and 74 women teachers. The enrollment was 2,413, making the total teaching force of the county 256 and the total enrollment 5,479. The school expenditures, for the year 1915, were approximately \$176,000. The average compensation for women teachers was \$50.99 and for men \$74.52. The value of school houses was \$269,570 and of apparatus \$14,150.

*Social Life*—The fairs of the county developed during this period, although the success, from year to year, was largely dependent upon weather conditions. The old established county fair at National has been able to maintain its existence, in spite of its location away from transportation facilities. The fair at Strawberry Point has become one of the noted institutions of northeastern Iowa, having patronage from several of the counties adjacent, and the Elkader fair has met with good average success and has grown as an institution. The chautauqua has developed into a strong institution, having been started at McGregor before the beginning of the century and having been continued successfully. Monona and Elkader and other cities also make the chautauqua a feature of their summer season, while almost every town has some festival day peculiarly its own.

Another development of the county is the rapid growth of telephone lines, until the county has become a network of wires. There is an exchange in every village, and not only is there the Bell system, with its excellent long distance service, but mutual farm companies which have connection with almost every farm home in the county. Another distinctive feature has been the forming of co-operative

marketing associations among the farmers, and a large percentage of the produce of the county is now marketed direct by the farms through their own agents. The wealth of the county is shown by the consolidated bank statements for the years 1913 and 1914, both of which are given to show the growth in the savings of the county.

#### FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

In 1913 there were 22 banks in Clayton county, with total deposits of \$5,750,830.59; total capital, \$646,000; total loans, \$4,747,035.89; surplus and undivided profits, \$193,575.05; total resources, \$6,554,390.86. The deposits February, 1913, were \$5,232,612.44, and on January 1, 1914, \$5,750,830.59, an increase during the year of \$518,218.15. In 1914, there were 23 banks with total deposits of \$5,626,173.40; capital \$596,000; loans, \$5,070,309.54; surplus and undivided profits, \$217,972.43, and resources of \$6,612,508.80. Another side-light upon the wealth of the county is the fact that at the Iowa picnic held at Los Angeles, in 1913, more than 100 Clayton county residents were registered.

The character of agricultural operations has largely changed since the early days, much more of the product of the farm is being sold "on the hoof" or in dairy produce and, whereas in the early days, wheat was the largest and almost the only product of the county, by 1912, it had become inconsiderable; the production of potatoes, in bushels being five times that of wheat. In 1912, there were more than 415,000 acres under cultivation and the crop statistics were as follows, corn, 2,868,871 bushels; oats, 2,001,645; winter wheat, 35,096; spring wheat, 9,642; barley, 357,766; rye, 34,209; hay, tons, 70,031; wild hay, 1,856; alfalfa, 141; potatoes, 243,533 bushels. The number of cattle was 49,044; sheep, 9,908; poultry, 463,082. The European war increased the value of bread-stuffs and had the season of 1915 been more favorable that year would have been the most prosperous in the county history.

*The Flood Record*—With its steep hills and narrow water courses, Clayton county is peculiarly subject to damage by storm and floods. In May, 1902, there was an exceedingly heavy rain fall. Bridges were damaged to the extent of from \$40,000 to \$50,000. The Turkey river, at Elkader, was higher than in the flood of 1880. The railroad track was washed away and the city water main across the river was broken. At Elkport, the flood was serious. The water struck the city during the night and it was with difficulty that some were rescued by means of rafts from the second stories of their homes. In the midst of the confusion of the flood there were two explosions in Kriebs' drug store and this building and the Odd Fellows building were soon in flames. The flood record of 1880 was surpassed and every merchant in the town suffered loss. At McGregor, the business district was flooded and the rain was accompanied by an electric storm in which three stores were struck by lightning and the property loss from fire was \$20,000. There was also an explosion in Frese's store, which was of such violence that men were thrown from the second story of the hotel and Charles Lewis was injured by a falling wall. This storm occurred on Sunday and, on the following Tuesday, there was another storm of almost equal violence. The total damage



to bridges was estimated at \$75,000. The mill at Volga and the bridge at Littleport were endangered, Elkport was flooded for the second time in a week and Strawberry Point was the scene of a severe hail storm.

The next flood was in July, 1903. The damage to bridges was again heavy, especially in Garnaville township. There were land slides and washouts on the Elkader and Volga branches, and Elkport was flooded for the fifth time in fourteen months. McGregor also began the century with a cloudburst of its own, in October, 1900. Three feet of water rushed down the main street for more than two hours, and it was then reported as the most disastrous flood for individuals that the town had ever had. In September, 1904, the Edgewood Journal was responsible for the statement that hailstones fell measuring from four to six inches in circumference, smashing practically all the window lights in the town and breaking the backs of hogs running in the field. Highland and Boardman townships suffered severely from hail, and, in March, 1906, the Turkey river was again in flood, the Elkader line was badly damaged and the flood at Elkport was within eighteen inches of the high water mark of 1902. John Downie and Mr. Friend were the heaviest losers at Elkader. In June, 1908, there was a terrific storm of wind, rain and hail throughout the county. At McGregor,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches of water fell in 40 minutes. The stream down Main street reached the height of six feet, there was a mile of ruins, the sewer system was wrecked and the Clark Hospital badly injured. Giard also suffered and, at Edgewood, buildings were injured and bark stripped from the trees by the hail. Bickel's trout pond was washed out, the Elkader train was marooned by the storm for 24 hours and much damage was done at Luana. The problem at McGregor was serious for an epidemic threatened as a result of the flood and Guttenberg sent help to McGregor to clean up the debris. The next severe storm was in July, 1908. There were four inches of rain at Elkader, and Turkey river and Pony creek were raging torrents. The train was caught at Downie's crossing and was unable to go forward or back on account of washouts. Garber, Elkport and Littleport were flooded. At Littleport the Keve Bros. lumber yards were set afire, by water coming in contact with a barrel of lime, and in this fire the Catholic church was also burned. Railroad traffic was stopped for many days and the damage to crops was estimated at \$100,000. In McGregor, it was necessary to establish a relief fund and, in November, the balance of more than \$2,000 was turned over to the council for the repair of sewers.

*Flood of 1916*—Save for a wind storm, in June, 1914, which destroyed barns and sheds, the county was free from severe storms until June 1, 1916. While no lives were lost in the great storm of 1916, the property loss was the heaviest the county has ever known. At Elkader, the oldest inhabitant admitted, reluctantly, that he had never seen the river so high. The new dam withstood the test with practically no damage. The Turkey river was two feet above all previous records, but the chief damage at Elkader was the destruction of Lenth's ice house and the city's ice supply. The Elkader line was almost a complete wreck from Beulah to Elkader. The bridge at Stulta and many

other smaller bridges were washed out and it was not until June 24th, that traffic was reopened.

The storm at McGregor was much more severe than in any other part of the county, nearly all the business houses were flooded and the paving which was under construction was damaged to the extent of \$1,000. At North McGregor, the loss to the Milwaukee railroad reached \$500,000. A great flood rushed down Bloody Run, the round house collapsed with a crash, the yards were entirely water swept, every sidetrack was washed out, engines and cars were tossed about by the flood, a big iron bridge, 90 feet long, was carried thirty rods down the stream; but for warning, sent by the operator at Giard, the loss of life from the eight-foot wall of water would have been large. Seven bridges were washed out between Beulah and McGregor. Great loss was sustained to freight in the yards and this fell upon the individual owner. The Milwaukee railroad had been planning to raise the yards and tracks at North McGregor and up Bloody Run and much material was lost in the flood. As a result of the flood, the railroad began operations at once to make such improvements as will make a repetition of the disaster impossible and \$1,000,000 is to be spent in raising the road bed and the yards and erecting permanent terminal facilities. All railroad travel was stopped by the flood and it was a number of days before even a temporary track could be laid. Sny Magill was also at flood. Crops were damaged in Clayton and Garnavillo and Farmersburg townships and a number of buildings were blown down. The storm was extensive and adjoining counties suffered greatly. On the Sunday following the storm thousands of people from Clayton and other counties visited McGregor to view the wreckage. A pontoon bridge was provided to cross the channel by the west yards. A charge of five cents was asked and during Sunday, 4,085 crossed, the receipts from this enterprise amounting to \$197.85.

*Criminal Sensations*—The county was remarkably free from crime of a serious or sensational nature, showing the steady improvement in the grade of citizenship. In November, 1906, John L. Bowland of Highland township was murdered by Ed West. The details of the crime were particularly bloody and revolting. Frank Meisner notified the officers that there were evidences of a tragedy and that Mr. Bowland was missing. Sheriff Dittmer and others went to the Bowland place and after considerable search, his body was found buried in a corn field. The head and body were badly mangled and it was evident that the crime had been committed with a claw hammer. The evidence pointed to Ed West as the guilty party, as he had been seen at the place with torn and bloody clothes and later he had returned to his home and had his wife wash the blood soaked garments. West had worked in the field all the next day and was arrested on his way home. He was tried for this crime and sentenced to life imprisonment. A tragedy, which created wide-spread interest and sympathy, occurred, in January, 1915, when Mildred Sweeney, a teacher, was burned to death at the home of Ben Meyer, in Cox Creek township. Miss Sweeney gave the alarm by which the family was able to escape, but the fire spread so rapidly that she was unable to leave the burning building and efforts to rescue her, made by Mr. Meyer, were unavailing.

*County Seat Events*—According to the census of 1900, Elkader had a population of 1,321, this being an increase of 576 over 1890. The years immediately preceding had been the nearest approach to a boom that Elkader has ever known and it was filled with hope and confidence for the future. In December of 1899, the Catholic church had been dedicated and the bridge, the new hotel and the Molumby block were accomplished facts. The first thing which occupied the attention of the citizens in 1900 was the question of an electric light franchise. Schmidt Bros. & Co. made a proposition to furnish electricity and a special election was held to vote on a franchise. There was considerable controversy as to the terms of the contract, many holding that with the rapid improvements being made in electrical apparatus the rates were too high and others contended that this was not the case and urged the city to take a forward step. The election was held in February, the vote being 217 for the franchise and 62 against. On the passage of the franchise, steps were immediately taken to install a plant and it was instituted without unnecessary delay. In April, 1900, the Congregationalists of the city were delighted by a generous gift on the part of Mrs. Caroline Hartrich, who purchased a residence adjoining the church, for the sum of \$2,000, and presented it to the society for parsonage purposes. Some of the events of the year following were the agitation for a canning factory, a meeting being held and a committee appointed, but without results. In April, the Coterie Club gave a book carnival, the hundred volumes presented being the nucleus for the present school library.

For the first time, perhaps, the people became greatly interested in base ball and the interest was increased by the fact that Fred Schoch, an Elkader boy, had become a star pitcher in the Pacific League with the Seattle Club.

The Opera House erected by the Turners was opened in August, 1901, with the play, "Peaceful Valley," and, in September the Opera House was the scene of the Memorial meeting when all heads were bowed with grief over the death of President McKinley. John Everall and D. D. Murphy were the speakers on this occasion.

The eleventh anniversary of the founding of the Elkader band was made a matter of public interest, in March, 1902. The band was organized in 1890, the first officers being H. D. Brown, president; M. E. Munger, vice president; G. H. Grotewohl, secretary; W. E. Prior, treasurer. Other members of the band were A. P. Bock, W. F. Reinecke, R. F. Schmidt, B. F. Falkenhainer, W. J. Vaupel, J. A. Kramer, J. Kepple, G. A. Candler, and S. F. Steinhilber. The band was uniformed in 1897 and in 1899 new instruments were obtained. The receipts of the band for eleven years were \$3,261 of which but \$103 were donated. This was an institution of which Elkader was justly proud.

It appears that the saloons in Elkader and throughout the county had been doing very much as they pleased during the decade preceding. In April, 1902, Judge Fellows instructed the grand jury that there must be stricter observance of the law and that if this was not done indictments must be found. He, however, gave time for the desired reformation. The mayors of the towns consulted and as a result the saloons



of Elkader were closed on Sundays for the first time in eleven years and other regulations were enforced.

Following the flood of 1902, the business men of Elkader protested against the slowness with which the work of repairing bridges was being prosecuted. Particularly did they complain of the fact that the bridge at Stulta had been out for several months. An indignation meeting was held and a committee composed of J. G. Hempel, Joseph Lamm and G. H. Shoulte was appointed to confer with the supervisors and through their efforts the work was hastened. It was at this time, July, 1902, that the first mention of an automobile appears in an Elkader paper. It was in July, 1902, also, that the council authorized the ladies to take charge of the Elkader cemetery. They incorporated and began their work by building a driveway and they have since cared for the cemetery in a way most satisfactory to all.

Two prominent business men left Elkader during this year. Henry Meyer who had been serving as bank examiner went to Des Moines to accept the vice-presidency of the First National Bank, and Sen. F. D. Bayless moved to Prairie du Chien where he organized a sanitarium company with a capital of \$100,000 and later established Bayless College. In 1903, there was a continuation of the long struggle between the citizens of Elkader and the Milwaukee railway. One train was taken off and the only train left arrived at 11:10 A. M. and left within an hour at 12:05. The business men held a meeting of protest and at once began to take interest in an interurban project, the line to run from Oelwein via Arlington and Volga. Double train service was restored within a few weeks after the state railway commission had been appealed to, but the interest of the interurban persisted and at a meeting held in February, John Jamison of Oelwein met with the citizens and outlined the plans, it being the intention to use gasoline motor cars.

*Opera House*—In February, 1903, the Turner Opera House, which had been dedicated but a short time before, was burned to the ground and Elkader was left without any place of amusement. The hall had been built in 1883, at a cost of \$2,500 but in 1901, improvements to the extent of \$3,500 had been made and the Opera House was a paying concern. The Turners at once made an effort to rebuild, but it was felt desirable to build on a much larger scale and thereupon action was taken by the citizens as a whole and an Opera House company was organized with R. E. Price as president and L. E. Corlett as secretary. A building committee consisting of William Becker, L. J. Kramer, J. J. Kann and L. E. Corlett was appointed. Shick and Roth submitted plans. Stock was solicited and there were 139 stockholders, the largest contribution being \$200. Ten thousand dollars was thus raised and the Turners donated the old site upon certain privileges of use being given them. The work was pushed rapidly and the grand opening was held November 17, 1903, with the play, "The Governor's Son." The ticket sale amounted to \$2,213. Not content with this improvement a proposal was made to macadamize the business streets, but this was met with sharp protest.

Elkader was baseball wild, in 1903, and the "Browns" were the heroes of the day and their defeats and victories were taken very much

to heart. The discovery of a new pitcher, Roggman by name, by whose aid Prairie du Chien was beaten, 7 to 3, was hailed with great delight. It was in September, 1903, that the Waukon Republican had a little fun at the expense of Elkader in the following paragraph: "The people of Elkader are now craning their necks all on account of the appearance of a locomobile just bought by County Attorney Davidson and the query now, instead of 'Have you seen our bridge?' will be 'Have you seen our locomobile?'"

In January, 1904, the city was plunged in grief over the death of Henry Beyer, wife and daughter, Grace, who perished in the awful tragedy at the Iroquois fire in Chicago. The bodies were identified and were brought to Elkader for burial.

May, 1904, was notable for a reunion of Company D, Twenty-first Iowa. Many friends attended and many letters were read but there were but seven members of the company present. The first good roads association in Elkader was formed in May, 1905. D. D. Murphy, John Everall and W. W. Davidson were members of the committee appointed to meet with the council to urge road improvement and as a result \$1,000 was appropriated. This same association secured the presence of D. Ward King, in January, 1906, to exhibit his road drag at Elkader. The semi-centennial jubilee of the Masonic lodge of Elkader was the great event of June, 1905. There was a banquet, addresses, and a history of the lodge prepared by John H. Hill, and many visiting Masons. In October, a proposition was made for the establishment of a gas company and in the following month this franchise was granted by a vote of 168 to 64 and the plant was erected, the contract being let in July, 1906.

The Elvidge Creamery was sold, in August, 1906, to the Beatrice Creamery Company and it was announced that the manufacture of butter at this place would be discontinued and the cream shipped to the company's plant at Chicago. It was in this month also that the retail merchants of the county organized to encourage home trade. M. J. Poull was president and J. G. Hempel, who had, the year previous, been honored by appointment as a member of the state voting machine commission, was the secretary. The first farmers institute in Elkader was held in November, 1906, and P. G. Holden, afterward a candidate for Governor, was judge of the corn contest and delivered a lecture on corn culture. In August, 1908, the Register purchased the Argus from F. L. Wolf & Co. and continued the publication under the present name of The Register and Argus, until 1916, when the "and Argus" was dropped, thus reducing the number of newspapers in Elkader from four to three. During 1908, Elkader was much interested in high school debating contests, the Elkader team, consisting of Malcom Greenleaf, Martha Cameron and Loy Molumby, winning from Osage, but later losing to Cedar Falls for the championship of northern Iowa. On May 22, 1908, the Elkader mills were burned for the second time. Henry Wolf discovered the fire and gave the alarm but it spread rapidly and practically nothing was saved and the loss was \$30,000. The mill was built in 1849, was destroyed by fire December 25, 1860, and was wrecked by flood in 1880. Schmidt Bros. & Co. proceeded at once with plans for rebuilding.

The inevitable "booster club" made its appearance in 1909. This was incorporated and the officers were J. F. Becker, president, and F. J. Uriell, secretary. One of the first things taken up was the inter-urban project from Oelwein and \$346 was raised for a preliminary survey. The Oelwein Interurban Company was formed and G. H. Shoulte of Elkader and W. A. Smith of Volga were directors. The survey was completed in December, 1909, and it was declared that the line was feasible, that the average grade was less than 1 per cent and at no place more than 2 per cent. The project, however, was soon dropped for nothing more appeared concerning it. One of the old land marks of Elkader passed away when the little round church was sold and torn down. This was the church built by the Congregationalists, in 1857. The first pastor was L. P. Mathews. In 1870, the building was sold to the Universalists, it later fell into the hands of James Partch who willed it to the state Universalists society. The old bell, bought by public subscription, in 1870, was sold to the German church.

The Elkader Commission Company of which W. J. Moran was secretary, held a meeting in March, 1910, and proposed reopening of the creamery. The matter was pushed and, in August, arrangements were made with Fritz and Gunderson, to start November 1, the council to repair the old building. In 1912, there were three projects which interested the people. The booster club demanded better rail service and a committee was appointed to secure three trains if possible. In October, N. S. Ketchum, of the Iowa Railroad Commission visited Elkader, inspected the depot and yards and agreed to urge improvements and better service. There were no results from this visit, however, and in September, 1913, the boosters were still at work, asking better service. In December, 1914, connections at McGregor for Dubuque were discontinued except on Friday and Saturday, making the railroad facilities of Elkader poorer than before. In May, 1915, there was a wreck at Pony Hollow and the Register complains that there are hundreds of rotten ties, that but little track work had been done and the whole line was in bad condition. During the flood of 1916, there was no service for nearly a month and at present the line has been but temporarily repaired. There is no question but that Elkader is greatly handicapped by inadequate train service, and it is to be regretted that it would appear from the record that the railroad company has made no concessions to Elkader, during all its history, except when forced to do so.

*School Building*—In June, 1912, a proposition was presented to the people for a bond issue of \$12,000 for the erection of a new school building. The vote was men, yes 118, no 81; women, yes 111, no 10, total vote being yes 229, no 91. This was the first election in which the women of Elkader took part. A contract was made with Fuelling and Hinsch of Farmersburg for the erection of the school building at the cost of \$10,110 and the building was dedicated in February, 1913. At this time Miss Marie Seward was acting superintendent, Superintendent Reinow having gone to Independence after eight years' service in Elkader. At the dedication D. D. Murphy delivered the address and it was stated that Elkader was one of the 56 accredited high schools



of the state. In 1914, Prof. J. P. Street was elected superintendent and under his charge the schools have been developed and improved and Elkader is now a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The new building is of brick and is well constructed. It is of two stories height with large basement and contains four grade rooms, a music room and rooms for the domestic science and manual training department. The school also has an excellent commercial course, and with the old building is well equipped for the present needs of the city.

The year 1912 witnessed the founding of the Auto Club with W. W. Davidson as president and W. C. Reimer as secretary and it also was the first year in which oil was used on the streets. A prominent social event of the year was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the service of Rev. Father F. J. Reilly as priest of the Elkader parish. The kindly Father was surprised by a large number of friends and parishoners and D. D. Murphy made the address presenting him with a purse of several hundred dollars. It was during 1912, also that Schmidt Bros. & Co. planned the building of the fine concrete dam which now harnesses the Turkey river at Elkader and which was so thoroughly tested in the flood of 1916. The work was pushed to completion and was finished without accident, until January, 1915. At this time, in blowing out the cofferdam, there were two tremendous explosions which broke window lights all over the town and threw rocks and debris for several blocks in all directions. A fifteen-pound rock went through the roof of the Register and Argus office and the skylight of Hales Photograph gallery was a complete wreck. Following the completion of the dam new rates were adopted, these being 12 cents per kilowatt with a sliding scale of discounts and a power rate of 5 cents per kilowatt. The company with its new machinery now furnishes power to Garnavillo and Guttenberg, the rates charged at these places being 2½ cents per kilowatt.

By 1915, the city was able to announce that it had reduced its debt from \$7,000 to \$4,500 and would soon be able to reduce it still farther. This favorable report encouraged those anxious for further improvement and in September, 1915, the petition for paving of the Main street was presented to the council. This was promptly met by remonstrance stating that paving was "unnecessary, extravagant and unwise at this or any time in the near future." A step toward paving was taken when M. Tschirgi & Son were employed to fix the permanent grades of the city and, in June, 1916, the council passed a resolution of necessity looking towards paving in the future and committees have already inspected paving in other cities and it is probable that in the course of time the example of McGregor will be followed.

In 1915, Elkader sported a team of professional ball players. A company was formed with R. L. Senneff as president and Carl Reinecke, Jr., secretary. The business men pledged financial support, but although the city had a fine team, the wet season made it a financial failure and suit is now pending, relative to the payment of the guarantee fund. In 1916, the team was on a strictly amateur basis. In May, 1915, Elkader adopted a curfew ordinance which is well enforced. As has been noted, the increasing number of automobiles has made this

a considerable industry in Elkader. The auto club has done much to promote this and in 1914, an automobile institute was held, although the attendance was disappointing. Concerning the automobile industry the following is taken from the Register and Argus:

"Elkader is fast becoming prominent in northeastern Iowa as an automobile center and its dealers and repair shops are doing an enormous business. Allen Bros., Dittmer & Stallbaum, and the Elkader Auto Company have purchased and sold about 150 new machines this year, together with a large amount of supplies and accessories. Their repair shops, together with the vulcanizing plant of C. E. Stone for the repair of tires, are the best in this whole territory and widely recognized as such. We understand the gross business of these firms will amount to from \$200,000 to \$250,000 this year. Elkader is to be congratulated upon the enterprise of these firms with their well equipped repair shops and skilled mechanics." There was much rejoicing among the high school "fans" when the Elkader team won the county declamatory contest, thus securing the permanent possession of the county cup. This cup was won by Elkader in 1906-07-09-10-11-14-16; by Edgewood in 1908 and by Guttenberg in 1912-13.

*McGregor Incidents*—The improvements at McGregor during 1900 exceeded \$50,000 and these were continued in the next year, when Dr. H. H. Clark founded a large hospital which was made an official hospital of the Milwaukee road. In April, 1901, West McGregor voted to discontinue its incorporation and to become part of McGregor proper, thus ending the official career of Michael Klein, who was the first and last mayor of West McGregor, holding the office continuously for 22 years. McGregor Heights continued to be a popular resort and in July, 1901, the North Eastern Iowa Veterans held a two days' reunion there, and in August the Modern Woodmen attracted a crowd of 5,000 from cities all over northeastern Iowa. The Methodist church, which had been interested in the Heights, relinquished its claim in 1902 and the city took control and it has since been the scene of annual chautauqua assemblies and has become famous as a cool and beautiful resort, many delightful summer cottages having been erected.

Both McGregor and North McGregor have suffered severely by fires as well as by floods. In January, 1903, the elevator of the Spencer Grain Co. and two warehouses were burned; the loss in buildings and grain reaching \$150,000. In December, of the same year, the Bergman opera house was burned and the stock of Kramer Bros. Clothing Store destroyed, the loss being \$60,000. The electric light plant was burned in January, 1904, and in January, 1906, Kramer Bros. were again burned out with a loss of \$50,000. In August of the same year, during an electric storm, the residence of Alfred Wooden, near McGregor, was struck by lightning and the owner killed. There were several smaller fires and in March, 1910, the Wingen saw mill at North McGregor, formerly the Flemming plant, burned with a loss of \$30,000 and in the following December the Milwaukee depot and the hotel at North McGregor were consumed. The Berry Hotel was opened October 1, 1904, with James Berry as proprietor, and it was the finest hotel between Dubuque and St. Paul.

The sensation of the year 1902 was the mysterious death of Henry

Wilson. A Miss Lillian Elsworth was arrested in connection with this death and told many conflicting stories concerning it. She was tried and acquitted. At the trial William Wandell, of Edgewood, was fined \$25 for asking a juror to acquit. According to Miss Elsworth, Wilson and she went for a walk, sat down upon the railroad track and fell asleep. She heard a passing train and then found that Wilson had been run over and killed. There were marks upon the body which indicated that blows had been struck rather than that the injuries had been inflicted by a train, but, while other arrests were made, no one was punished for the crime, if such it was.

*Pearl Button Industry*—For many years all the pearl buttons used in America were manufactured in Austria, where labor was cheap. Under the McKinley tariff a considerable duty was levied and this prompted the opening up of the industry in America. Muscatine was the first center of the pearl button industry along the Mississippi. It was found that there were many varieties of clam shells which were suitable and the industry rapidly spread all along the river. Button factories were established at many points and the river was fairly black with the boats of the clam diggers and little settlements sprang up along the shores. The bed of the stream was raked and the shells carefully dried and sorted. Those engaged in the industry were able to earn from \$15 to \$25 a week and the factories gave employment to many. Added to this certain reward for the shells, there was the added excitement of the hunt for pearls. Many pearls of great value were found and a man who was a poor clam digger today might find a fortune in any rakeful. With this great lottery in which the capital prizes were sometimes in excess of \$2,000, it is no wonder that the whole river front was excited. There were pearl buyers at all the larger cities. In 1901, Fred Houdak found a pearl valued at \$1,500. Ida Brooks found an egg-shaped pearl of 20 grains, valued between \$20 and \$30 a grain. In an interesting article on the industry, written for the Times in 1903, it is stated that the highest priced pearl found in that vicinity sold for \$2,000, and that at least ten pearls had been found along the river which brought the finder more than \$1,000 each, although many of lesser value were found. The white round pearl was the most valuable. It was stated that in 1902 \$1,500,000 was paid to the clammers along the 300 miles of the Mississippi river. The search was continued throughout the winter by the means of a long fork operated through a hole in the ice. So eager was the search that before many years the best clam beds were exhausted, and while the business is still carried on it is not nearly so extensive as in former years.

During the height of this industry, a button factory was established at McGregor, concerning which the Times said:

"The pearl button factory commenced work Tuesday noon. They have 24 tons of shells on hand, which will probably keep them busy for four or five weeks. A 6-horsepower water motor furnishes the power. One man can probably turn away about 800 pounds a day. The process is simple yet interesting. Ten men are at work at present turning out the blanks. The blanks go by two different names, tips and butts, tips being those secured from the thin end of the shell, and



butts those from the shell's thicker portion. The blanks, or unfinished buttons, are of different sizes also and the price paid varies with both the thickness and the size. The standard of measure is a line one-fortieth of an inch, and the basis of price paid the laborers is the gross, 14 dozen to a gross. For tips, 14 lines in diameter,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents per gross is paid; 16 lines, 5 cents; 18 lines,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cents. For butts the price is higher, 14 lines,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cents; 16 lines, 6 cents. This average of price is kept up to 24 lines, the largest size, for which 10 cents per gross is paid the laborer. One man can earn as high as \$3.00 per day by keeping constantly at work. The shells are soaked in water before grinding and a constant stream of water is kept trickling upon them while they are being ground to avoid dust. The proprietor and manager, Mr. Houdek, is very considerate and obliging to visitors."

*Sand Mosaics*.—Another industry peculiar to McGregor was the making of beautiful and artistic pictures in bottles from the many colored sands found in the Pictured Rocks near McGregor. This industry was so unique that it attracted attention not only in this country but in Europe, and the following is an extract from an article published in "Lectures Modernes," of Paris, in July, 1903: "About twenty years ago, an American deaf mute, Andrew Clemens really sought to use in decoration (picturing) the multicolored sand which is found in abundance in the vicinity of McGregor, Iowa, and succeeded, before his lamented early death, in developing the idea to a high degree of perfection. His brilliant conception, however, seemed in danger of being forgotten, when Mr. W. S. O'Brien, manager of the Union Telegraph office at McGregor, took up the problem in such hours of leisure as his professional avocations left him, and brought it happily to a successful solution. Let us visit, then, the studio of the Sand Artist. The equipment of the 'mosiaste' is simplicity itself. His 'palette' comprises a case of boxes in fan form, divided into compartments, each containing sand of a different shade, forty-one in all, and none of them artificial. A pencil of wood is his only 'brush.' With a small spoon he transfers from the several compartments the sands into a glass bottle, the size and form of which he selects according to the object or combination he wishes to represent, then by means of the little wooden tools, Mr. O'Brien arranges the sands just as a painter applies his colors on a canvas. He succeeds in this way of accomplishing many beautiful effects. The sand, once in position in the bottle, is pressed strongly but with precaution so as not to shatter the glass envelope; then the mouth of the bottle is cemented. This done, no shaking or shock can disarrange the varicolored particles encased in this hermetically sealed enclosure.

"One would imagine that the sand must be pasted or glued upon the interior surface of the glass that it could hold so firmly in position. Nevertheless we affirm after personal verification that the sand has not undergone any manipulation whatever. It is used simply dry and as nature gives it, just as anyone can pick it up from its veins in the 'Pictured Rocks' near McGregor. Nothing more magnificent to contemplate than these layers and veins of sand combining all the colors of the rainbow, diversified, clearcut, distinct, separate. Upon these monster mountain mosaics of nature the sun's rays play with marvelous

effects, while in the midst of the hills are running and singing little brooks and rivulets, jumping like frisking lambkins over rocks and forming sparkling cataracts in their way down to their home in the bosom of the great 'Father of Waters' at the foot of the bluffs."

In 1902, Peter Fisher, of McGregor, made one of the most beautiful of these sand bottles, using 35 different colored sands.

*Proposed National Park*—In 1909 a movement was inaugurated to have the beautiful and historic Heights, including the Pictured Rocks and Pike's Peak, with its awe-inspiring view of the great Mississippi valley, incorporated into a national park and preserved for future generations. By resolution the legislature of Iowa endorsed the project, but no considerable progress was made until Senator W. S. Kenyon, of Iowa, took an active interest in it. In December, 1915, a national park meeting was held at McGregor, which was addressed by Senator Kenyon, Congressman Haugen, State Senators Fellows and Quigley and many others. At this time a committee of five was appointed to promote the project of having the Heights from two to three miles below McGregor and extending back from the river for a depth of from one-half to three-quarters of a mile incorporated into a national park. As a part of its work this committee prepared a very handsome folder, giving many views from the proposed park and an outline of its duty and the points of historical interest. In June, 1916, through the efforts of Senator Kenyon, an appropriation of \$500 was made for an inspection of the proposed park and a report as to the advisability of its adoption by the government. From the literature prepared by the committee the following description of some of the beauties of the proposed park is taken:

*Pike's Peak*—At the southern extremity of the park and dominating the landscape, Pike's Peak, most famous of the Mississippi hills, stands sentinel. The view from its summit a world traveler has declared to be "the finest water scene in America." Facing the mouth of the Wisconsin river, as it does, Pike's Peak was the first land seen by white men on the discovery of the Upper Mississippi and overlooked the stirring events which took place about the confluence of the Wisconsin and the Mississippi rivers in the beginnings of history. It was a favorite vantage point of the Indians and often a battle ground.

In 1805 Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, the great explorer, shelved his boat on the pebbly shore at the foot of the hill, which has since borne his name, climbed to the top and planted the first American flag raised in the Northwest.

Pike's Peak is now a favorite picnic and camp ground. It is reached by a drive of three miles from McGregor and by two trails from the river.

*Pictured Rocks*—Sequestered in a valley on the north side of Pike's Peak lies Pictured Rocks. This beauty spot, a bit of the Grand Canon or Yosemite Valley dropped down among the Mississippi hills, is reached by a ten minutes' walk from the bank of the river. The path follows up a stream splashing with tiny waterfalls through a ravine so deep and narrow the sun only penetrates it for a few minutes at noon. Suddenly you emerge in a sunlit amphitheatre formed by perpendicular cliffs of colored sand two hundred feet high, varying from

glistening ivory to the most brilliant orange and scarlet. More than forty colors have been found. They lie one above each other in horizontal, curved, zigzag and fantastically broken lines, making the whole a sand mosaic of enchanting beauty. A cave of dazzling colors and a waterfall nearly a hundred feet high are features of the scene. Above Pictured Rocks on the trail leading to Pike's Peak is Horseshoe Falls, a miniature Minnehaha.

Briefly enumerating the few of the more important items of McGregor's history during the past 16 years it is found that, in 1901, the J. D. Bickel Produce Company was founded, with cold storage and creamery plant, and this grew to be a large industry. In 1903, a packet steamer reached McGregor direct from Chicago, this being the first since 1875. In 1904, the Congregational church was improved at the cost of \$5,500. In the spring of that year W. R. Motheral invented the motor boat which developed great speed and was one of the fore-runners of the racers of today.

#### THE HAND OF DEATH

As might have been expected the hand of death dealt heavily with the pioneers during the opening years of the new century, and until, in 1916, there are but few living who took part in the active history of the county in the days before the war. There are a number living who were children or youths at that time but of those who have arrived at man's estate there are but few. Col. J. O. Crosby, of Garnaville is the most notable of the living pioneers today. A man of splendid education and of marked intellectual powers he is today a giant among men despite the weight of more than 90 years, and he stands today as almost the lone survivor of those men who made the early history of Clayton county great.

In the year 1900, there died Patrick Donlan, one of the pioneers of Cox Creek; James Davis, who came to Garnaville in 1848 and who was the popular sheriff of the county for 16 years following 1855; C. H. Kuempel, the pioneer cabinet maker of Clayton, whose sons established an excelsior factory at that place which they operated until it burned in 1895; J. D. Schmidt, founder of the Elkader brewery and later the partner in the Elkader mill who came to Read township in 1848; Thomas D. White, the pioneer of National in 1853 and later a resident of Volga, who served in the legislature in 1876; John N. Hamilton, who for 18 years following 1874 was at the head of the Elkader school and who died at Sac City.

In 1901, the death roll included James M. Crawford, who came to Guttentberg in 1847 and who was later a resident of Frenchton and of Clayton; Milo P. Clark, one of the strong men of Wagner township, a pioneer of 1852; A. F. Nichols, a councilman of Portland, Oregon, who died in Chicago but who was known here as a county supervisor and president of the agricultural association and who was buried at his old home at Luana; Lars Hulverson, one of the Norwegian pioneers of Read township.

In 1902, there died Charles Leibbrook, the prominent Elkader marchant who came to this country from Bavaria in 1852; P. P. Olmstead,



one of the founders of Monona and who was prominent as a supervisor and as a Republican leader. He was found dead in a puddle on his farm near Monona. Dan E. Gleason, an 1850 pioneer of Elkader; Fred Pahlas, who came to Read township in 1857, and to Elkader in 1889; Mrs. Thomas Updegraff, the beloved wife of the congressman from this district and who shared with him all the hardships as well as the honors of his distinguished career; John D. Welsh, a veteran pioneer of Volga; Fred Cook, who came to Guttenberg after the war, was sheriff in 1893 and later served as deputy and jailer; Col. J. K. P. Thompson, who died at Rock Rapids but who was identified with Clayton's earlier history, having been a member of the Twenty-first Iowa, and having studied law under S. T. Woodward.

Those passing to the Great Beyond in 1903 were Henry Wilker, of Clayton Center, who came to Garnavillo in 1850; Rev. N. W. Bixby, who died at Edgewood at the age of 94, being the oldest minister in Iowa. He was of the Free Will Baptist faith and was very dearly beloved by all; William Monlux, who came to Wagner township in 1855, enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Iowa, and was wounded at Vicksburg. Elected supervisor in 1893 he served six years and was a member of the Elkader council at the time of his death, J. G. Hempel being appointed to succeed him; G. G. Nass, the postmaster at Gunder; Major Jenkins, the Vermont Yankee whose early days were spent as a sailor and who came to Garnavillo in 1845 and who, at the time of his death was one of the oldest men in the county, being 98 years of age; H. S. Granger, who died at Philipsburg, Kansas, who was the founder of Clayton county's first newspaper in 1853, who read law with Samuel Murdock, was a partner of Reuben Noble and who was school fund commissioner and clerk of the county for 12 years following 1860; Martin Garber, who died at Garber, Oklahoma, but who was one of Clayton's earliest settlers, having been deputy auditor under Mr. Duff and succeeded him in that position.

The notable deaths of 1904 included that of Lyman Taylor, the pioneer builder of Elkader; T. C. Palmer, who was known as Uncle Tom of High Prairie in the early days and who was postmaster at Seigel; E. B. Snedigar, son of the old Elkader postmaster, a veteran of the war who dropped dead while at his work in Fayette county; O. D. Oathout, who came to Clayton county in 1855 and resided on the same farm until his death. He was one of the leading educators and did good work as county superintendent; J. J. McCarthy, born in Cox Creek and who became the leader of the Dubuque bar; John Kleinlein, the miller of Clayton, who was killed in a runaway accident.

William Crain, who came to Sperry township in 1854 working for 75 cents a day and paying 35 per cent interest for the money for which to buy his first farm and who died the owner of more than 800 fertile acres, died in 1905, as did Peter Helgeson, the oldest citizen of Wagner, a Norwegian who was famed as a hunter and trapper; John F. Bierbaum, who came to Guttenberg in 1847 and afterward lived at Garnavillo, Clayton and Monona; Thomas Kelleher, one of the Irish pioneers of Boardman township in 1855; Capt. W. A. Benton, whose life was one of great adventure. He came to McGregor in 1856 and was Captain of Company G, Twenty-first Iowa, post master of

McGregor and sheriff for six years, being elected in 1873. His life included adventures in the mines of California, in Australia and South America, including a ship wreck off San Francisco.

John T. Stoneman died at McGregor October 11, 1905. He came of an illustrious family, his brother being a major general in the Union army. He came to McGregor in 1856 and was one of the county's greatest lawyers. He was elected state senator and was twice a candidate for congress and twice received the support of the democrats of the legislature for the office of U. S. Senator. He moved to Cedar Rapids in 1881, where he was judge of the Superior Court, but he spent his last years with his daughter, Mrs. A. Chapin, at McGregor. In the same year, 1905, died J. F. Thompson, a teacher, journalist and political leader. He taught the schools at Elkader, was county superintendent from 1874 to 1878 and was clerk of the county and a member of the legislature. He moved to California and died in the newspaper harness; Orlando McCraney, a prominent figure in the earlier days and who boasted that he had laid out 14 towns in Iowa and in California.

S. L. Peck was a beloved pioneer who died in 1906. He came to this county in 1849, studied law in Elkader, was county treasurer, a partner of Judge Williams and was the surveyor of the county all but four years from 1869 until 1882. His last years were spent in Ohio. Among the others were John W. Becker, who came to Jefferson township in 1853 and who was a prominent and wealthy citizen of Elkader after 1886; Charles Schecker, a veteran of the Schleswig-Holstein war who came to Communia in 1851. He enlisted with Company D, Twenty-seventh Iowa and was sergeant of the company, post master at Elkport 1865-69, deputy surveyor 1870-74, surveyor 1876-80, recorder 1881-84, deputy surveyor 1885-1905. At the time of his death he was the oldest surveyor in active service in the state. He was a great student and a brilliant writer and his fiction was eagerly sought by the periodicals of Germany. Isaac Havens also was among those who died in 1906. He was a Garnavillo pioneer of 1846, and later was a farmer near Elkader. He was also a capitalist, being a promoter of the First National Bank of Elkader and a director of the First National Bank of McGregor. During the early days he served two terms as sergeant-at-arms of the general assembly at Iowa City.

C. C. Bicknell the pioneer hardware and furniture dealer who came to McGregor in 1857, died in 1902, and in the same year that city mourned the loss of one of its most noted pioneers, George L. Bass. He came to Galena in 1842 with but five shillings capital. In 1850 he crossed the river in a skiff to McGregor Landing and became a partner in the firm of Jones and Bass. Two years were spent in California when he again became a merchant at McGregor. He sold his business to Merrill and Barron and formed the Bass and Grant produce company. He was a member of the legislature in 1861 and was mayor of McGregor, 1859-60. He started the first brickyard and the first sawmill at McGregor, helped to build the first church, was a director of the branch of the Iowa State Bank, in 1860, and was the first Worthy Master of Beser Lodge. In politics he was a democrat and he was one of the most popular citizens of McGregor.

George S. C. Scott, who died in 1903, was a McGregor pioneer business man. He was one of the charter committee for McGregor in 1857 and was active in the beginnings of the church and the Masonic lodge; O. W. Crary, who died in 1903, was a large land owner. He came of distinguished family, settled in Farmersburg in 1848, and in Boardman township in 1857. He was county judge, county superintendent for three terms and state senator in 1871. J. H. Merrill, who died in 1904, came to McGregor with his brother, afterward Gov. Samuel Merrill. He helped organize the First National Bank of McGregor and succeeded his brother as president of the bank. He moved to Des Moines in 1874.

In 1907, occurred the death of James Humphrey of Monona who was noted for his wide hospitality and who came to Clayton county in 1852. In 1908 the county lost James Ivory, a pioneer of Clayton; Okley F. Davis, who came to Elkader in 1852, was a member of the Fourth Iowa, landlord of the Turkey River House and a well known builder and contractor.

The death roll of 1909 included Herman Ihm of Guttenberg, a pioneer of 1854, a soldier during the war and a prominent business man, having been mayor in 1869 and treasurer of the Guttenberg Excelsior Company; David Molumby, who settled in Highland township, in 1855; J. E. Webb, the educator who taught at Graham, Elkport and Strawberry Point and who was the head of the Elkader school for 25 years. He was elected recorder in 1904, serving two terms. His death was a cause of universal regret at Elkader and there was a large public funeral at which eulogy was delivered by V. T. Price. Ezra Hurd, prominent in the early days, a veteran of the Mexican war, who settled in Garnavillo in 1846; Dr. Rudolph Gmelin, a veteran of the Franco-Prussian war, who lived at Guttenberg, Elkader and Garnavillo; Francis K. Robbins, who came to Clayton county in 1849 and who helped organize Highland township, the first being held at his home in 1854, and his son James being the first child born in the township; Edward Reynolds a Clayton pioneer of 1849 and Lars Hulverson, one of the leaders among the Norwegians in Wagner township in 1850.

The year 1910 witnessed the following deaths: J. L. Hagensick, who came to Garnavillo from Bavaria in 1853. He was a brewer at Clayton Center and McGregor until 1865, when he went into the mercantile business. He was the founder of the Hagensick family of Clayton county; John Anderegg who came to Jefferson township in 1853, was a veteran in Company D, Twenty-seventh Iowa and who was prominent in this community; Fred Bergman, a pioneer of McGregor in 1846 and a prominent business man of that city; D. G. Griffith, the veteran editor of the Elkader Register, a man who had a splendid war record with the Second New York Heavy Artillery and who founded the Register together with G. A. Fairfield in 1880. He was post master at Elkader and served three terms as mayor. His thirty years' record as an editor was a brilliant one and he was a leader in his community; Rev. F. W. Seifert, a man of heroic mold, a leader in the German Revolution. He came to this country and taught school at Elkport. While working at a sawmill he met with an accident and both his legs were frozen so that amputation was necessary. In this



crippled state he entered the ministry at Clayton Center in 1862 and was pastor of the churches there, at Elkader and Farmersburg for many years. He retired in 1903 and he was one of the best loved and most highly respected men in the county. The death of Thomas Updegraff, whose biography appears in another chapter, also occurred in 1910, as did also that of H. S. Merritt, who was known for many years at Elkader as an abstractor, business man and expert accountant, and Gilbert Cooley, who for ten years was post master of Strawberry Point. He settled in Cass township in the '50s, was a member of the Twenty-first Iowa and was a leading Union man and Republican of his community. He died suddenly of heart failure while post master at Strawberry Point. His son, Edwin G. Cooley, was superintendent of the schools of Chicago.

In 1912, the first death of a pioneer recorded was that of C. S. Bickel, who settled in Giard township in 1853. He was the head of the Bickel family whose family reunions were notable events in Giard township for a number of years. Others dying in 1912, were Dr. L. L. Renshaw, of Monona, who was born in National in 1856 and who was practicing physician at Monona. He was a surgeon for the Milwaukee railway and a member of the pension board for 20 years. He was one of the organizers of the Monona State Bank. J. E. Corlett, familiarly known as Uncle John, settled in Farmersburg in 1855. He was prominent in the county and was for a number of years the secretary of the county agricultural society.

In January, 1913, occurred the death of Joseph Eiboeck, one of the most prominent editors of Iowa who has already become familiar to the readers of this history as the editor of the Elkader Journal during its early days. He was born in Hungary in 1838 and came to Dubuque in 1849. Coming to Clayton county, he taught school at Garnaville and bought the Garnaville Journal in 1858. He served a short time in the army but was relieved on account of ill health. He was the editor of the Elkader paper until 1872, when he went to Des Moines and founded the Anzeiger, which became the leading German paper of the state, in 1874. During these years he traveled widely, was a great student and was a man of national reputation. He had strong personality and great strength of character. He contended with the many hardships of pioneer journalism and established a high standard of editorial excellence in this county. While a resident of Elkader he was married to Miss Fannie Garrison of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and they celebrated their golden wedding but a few months before his death. His wife survived him but a few days. Mr. Eiboeck must be accounted as one of the greatest men who have made Clayton county their home.

L. H. Place died in Nevada in 1913. He came to Elkader in 1858 and was one of the leading merchants. He served as sheriff for six years and his remains were brought to Elkader for burial; W. R. Kinniard, who founded the first bank in the county, at McGregor, died in Idaho Falls in 1913. The year 1914 brought death to a number of the older residents among whom were Herbrand Knudson, the pioneer merchant of Farmersburg; Joseph Lamm, who was for many years prominent in Elkader. He came to Clayton county in 1853 as a boy of five, was deputy postmaster in 1869 and the first mail clerk on the

Iowa Eastern. He was a merchant in Elkader after 1878 and was station agent from 1878 until 1892. His efforts to keep traffic open to Elkader merchants have been already noted. His later years were employed as a grain dealer and business man in Elkader. V. R. Miller, one of the earliest pioneers of McGregor, G. J. M. Dittmer, a pioneer musician, who settled in Jefferson township in 1850; G. H. Shoulte, the popular mayor of Elkader for 12 years. He was born in Clayton township in 1866, taught school at Clayton and was educated at Ames, Iowa City and in the law office of W. A. Preston. In 1894 he entered the firm of Everall and Shoulte. He was elected mayor in 1902 and represented the county in the legislature. He was elected county attorney in 1912 and had just been renominated at the time of his death. His death came as a great shock to Elkader people and there was a large public funeral at which Mr. D. D. Murphy delivered the eulogy. Others were Fred Groth, the well known bridge builder of Guttenberg, who was supervisor in 1910-12; Luther P. Pugh, who came as a boy to Clayton county and lived at Pugh Hollow near Mederville, being the last of the pioneers of that neighborhood. He was a member of Company D, Twenty-first Iowa; and other deaths from the ranks of that company were William Kellogg, Alfred McLane, Robert Parr, S. T. Richards, George Densmore, Thomas Fisher and Harvey King. C. F. Bevins died at Sanborn, Iowa. He was a resident of Volga for 52 years and was known as a teacher and a business man. The death of Martin Dittmer, in November, 1914, came as a sudden shock to the entire county. He had been active in politics and was sheriff from 1904-11. At the time of his death, which occurred following an operation at Prairie du Chien, he was engaged in the implement and automobile business at Elkader.

Death losses among the pioneers in 1915 were as follows: John Van Staden, who was associated with Michael Klein in the brewery at West McGregor and who represented Clayton county in the legislature in 1879; Alvah F. Rogers, who was born in Garnaville in 1859 and was known as a teacher and as post master of Farmersburg; J. W. Libby, who died at the advanced age of 89, having come to Elkader in 1852 and being a charter member of the Masonic lodge. Although not a resident of this county, C. T. Granger, who died in 1915, was prominent in the history of the county. He settled in Allamakee county in 1854 and was admitted to the bar in 1860. He was captain of Company K, Twenty-Seventh Iowa, and after the war was elected district attorney, this county being in his district. Later he served as district judge and was elected to the supreme bench in 1889, and was chief justice in 1885. He was a candidate for congress in this district in 1874. He was a republican and was recognized as one of the ablest jurors of the state.

In March, 1916, occurred the death of Mathew Fitzpatrick. He came as a child to Cox Creek township, in 1865, studied law with W. A. Preston and was admitted to the bar in 1883. He was deputy treasurer in 1884 and was for three terms recorder of Clayton county. In July, 1916, occurred the death of E. M. Paul, who had been agent of the Milwaukee at Elkader for many years, who had taken an active part in the life of the city and who was the oldest railroad man in the county



in point of service. In October, 1907, James Schroeder died at Guttenberg, where he had been postmaster for many years. He came to Guttenberg in 1854; in 1862 he was appointed assistant revenue collector. He was appointed postmaster of Guttenberg in 1867 and held the office until the time of his death, with the exception of the years during the second Cleveland administration. He was a warm personal friend of Senator W. B. Allison.

*Twentieth Century Politics*—Politically the century was opened with the second battle between William McKinley and William J. Bryan. The Republican party was well united and confident of success. Although "expansion" was said to be the paramount issue in this campaign, those Democrats opposed to free silver had not forgotten the campaign of 1896 and were still opposed to Bryan on that issue. This aided the Republicans in their campaign and McKinley received a majority of nearly 500. For the major county officers the Republican candidates were nearly all candidates for reelection and they ran well with their ticket. There was one close contest, that between S. J. Beddow, Republican, and John H. Hill, Democrat, for recorder. On the face of the returns Hill was elected by three majority. Beddow brought a contest and H. D. Jenkins, T. J. Sullivan and John Everall were the commissioners who made the recount. The contest took six days and, as a result, Hill was declared elected by a majority of 19. During this, and preceding years, there had been growing divisions in the Republican ranks. Those who had had control of the party machinery came to be known as "stand-patters" and the opposing faction was led by A. B. Cummins. Mr. Cummins was successful in securing the Republican nomination for governor in 1901. It was during this campaign that Mr. Cummins visited Clayton county and in driving from Osborne with his friend, J. G. Hempel, their team became frightened and ran away, both men being hurt, but fortunately neither of them seriously. The Republicans of Clayton county were largely in favor of Cummins and his nomination strengthened their ticket.

In September, 1901, came the news of the assassination of President McKinley, the third president of the United States to fall a victim of the assassin's bullet. The general grief over this national tragedy took much of the ordinary rancor from the campaign. With the death of McKinley was added a new, unknown but vital factor to American politics when Theodore Roosevelt succeeded to the presidency. In Clayton county A. B. Cummins received a majority of nearly 300. J. C. Flenniken, Republican, was elected representative. The popular Democratic officials, Reugnitz for treasurer, Benton for sheriff and Adam for superintendent, were reelected, the Republicans securing the balance of the officers. Henry Meder was elected supervisor over J. F. Schug, Democrat, by seven, and this provoked another contest. Mr. Meder, who was chairman of the board, resigned that he might not be called upon to serve as a judge of the contest. As a result of the canvass, Meder was declared elected by 5 majority. Mr. Flenniken was the first Republican representative from Clayton county since 1881.

*Death of Chas. Reugnitz*—The great political sensation of 1902



was the death of Charles Reugnitz. This occurred suddenly on May 25. Mr. Reugnitz was one of the most popular men the county ever knew. He was treasurer for seventeen years and, at a number of the elections, he had no opposition and when he did he was easily the victor. It was found that his books were in chaotic condition. Hempel, Hill and Hagensick were appointed to investigate and they found a shortage of \$9,148, and this was afterwards increased as other matters came to light. Twenty of his bondsmen paid \$400 each of this deficit and the balance was made good by the family. It was the unanimous verdict that Mr. Reugnitz did not benefit personally by the sum lost to the county, but rather that he was a too obliging friend and had loaned money which was never repaid.

The prohibitionists placed a full county ticket in the field, in 1902, but the vote was not a considerable factor. The main fight of the campaign centered about the office of auditor and there was a close race between J. G. Hempel and Otto German, Mr. Hempel winning by a majority of 18. This was the only close contest, the Republicans carrying the county by 115 and electing Hempel, Costigan and Davidson while the democrats held the offices of recorder and treasurer with James Carroll and W. F. Reinecke. J. F. Becker, the Republican nominee, had been appointed treasurer upon the death of Reugnitz and Reinecke was elected to fill the vacancy, taking his office in November, 1902.

In the election of 1903, A. B. Cummins was again a candidate for governor. He spoke at Garnaville during the campaign and was greeted by a large torch light parade. His popularity aided the Republicans and they made a clean sweep of the county except that W. F. Reinecke was reelected treasurer and Martin Dittmer was elected sheriff.

*The Roosevelt Campaign*—Theodore Roosevelt was the Republican candidate in 1904 and Alton B. Parker was the Democratic candidate for president. Mr. Parker was a conservative Democrat and was not popular with the enthusiastic followers of Bryan. The national contest was one-sided and Roosevelt carried every northern state by large majorities. The sentiment of the nation was reflected in Clayton county and Roosevelt received the largest Republican majority (711) given in this county since Grant was a candidate for president, in 1872. This was a "tidal wave" and the Republicans were largely successful. The Democrats elected T. L. Harvey, auditor, and M. X. Geske, attorney, the balance of the ticket being Republican. For recorder J. E. Webb, the popular Elkader school superintendent, defeated James Carroll by 23 votes and L. S. Fisher defeated L. B. Blanchard by 16 votes. Both of these elections were contested and, upon the recount, the majorities of both Webb and Fisher were increased to 35.

At this election a constitutional amendment for biennial elections was voted on. Clayton county gave an adverse majority of 707, but the amendment carried in the state and as a result there were no elections in the odd-numbered years thereafter.

J. G. Hempel had been elected a member of the Republican state central committee, in 1902, as supporter of the Cummins faction and this county had been strong in Cummins' support. At the election of

1906, however, Mr. Cummins was opposed by C. R. Porter, who had the united support of his party. This, together with the growing division of the Republican ranks, reduced the majority in this county to 76 and the majority of the Democratic county ticket was elected. C. H. Schulte succeeded Flenniken as representative, Harvey for auditor, Reinecke for treasurer, Dittmer for sheriff, Geske for attorney, Adams for superintendent were among the democrats elected; while the Republicans were Roy Webb for clerk, J. E. Webb for recorder, Ole Nelson for surveyor, W. J. Bierman for coroner and H. A. Mallory, A. S. Houg and L. S. Fisher for supervisors.

*Election of 1908*—Nineteen hundred eight was another presidential election with William H. Taft, Republican, and William J. Bryan, Democrat, as opposing candidates for president. The money panic, in 1907, was a weakening influence for the Republicans, as was, also, the growing contention between the stand-patters and the Progressives of that party. This was reflected in the politics of the state and there was a sharp contest for the Republican nomination for governor. Among the Clayton county men urged for office were J. G. Hempel, who was brought forward as a candidate for state auditor, but who refused to enter the race and for elector B. W. Newberry of Strawberry Point, who at this time nearly lost his life by being bitten by a rattlesnake.

*The First Primary*—Nineteen hundred eight was the year of the first primary election. The first primary petitions in this county were filed by George Fletcher as a candidate for attorney and by George Losch as a candidate for sheriff. The supreme contest among the Republicans was for the office of United States senator, with William B. Allison and A. B. Cummins as opposing candidates. This was the most bitter contest any party has ever known in Iowa and served to widen the breach between the two wings of the party. In this county Cummins received a majority of 144, but in the state Allison won by 20,000. In the primary there were contests in the Democratic party for congress, between A. J. Anders and M. B. Guiser with Anders the victor in this county, although not in the district. For county officers among the Democrats, D. F. Willmes defeated T. L. Harvey for auditor, M. B. Bishop defeated O. C. Friend for clerk, Martin Dittmer defeated P. J. Ryan for sheriff and the balance of the Democratic ticket was not contested. Among the Republicans B. F. Carroll defeated Warren Garst for governor, C. J. Cords defeated C. H. Williamson for auditor, Embertson won over J. A. Kramer for clerk, G. Losch defeated J. H. Schmidt for sheriff, D. E. Livingood defeated D. M. Dahn for superintendent and F. J. Corlett defeated A. S. Houg for supervisor. Less than 60 per cent of the vote was cast at this primary.

Before the election, in November, William B. Allison, the aged senior senator from Iowa, died and the question of the senatorial succession was reopened. Friends in this district urged G. N. Haugen as a candidate but he refused to run. A special session of the legislature was called and a law passed which permitted the republicans to hold a primary for senator in connection with the regular election of November, 1908. The opposing factions of the party lined up, with A. B. Cummins as the representative of the progressives and congressman

J. F. Lacey as the leader of the stand-patters. In this primary Mr. Cummins was an easy victor, but these battles among themselves, continuing to the very eve of the election, left the republicans in no trim to meet the Democratic opposition. Another factor in this county was the increasing activity of the prohibition campaign, H. C. Barber, president of the Iowa anti-saloon league, touring the county in the early months of the year. In Clayton county, therefore, in 1908 the Democrats won a sweeping victory, carrying the county for Bryan by 253 and electing every candidate, except J. W. Forward, who was defeated by C. F. Meier for treasurer in the closest election ever held in this county, Mr. Meier's majority being but a single vote; and L. A. Zearley who was defeated for coroner by 60 majority, by W. J. Bierman. By 1910, the breach in the Republican ranks had widened. In the primaries Warren Garst carried the county by 136 over B. F. Carroll for governor. In other Republican contests Douglas Brown defeated George Losch for sheriff and L. S. Fisher defeated F. J. Corlett for supervisor. Among the Democrats there were no primary contests except for sheriff, E. Bergemeyer winning, by 36 plurality, in a three-cornered contest with D. L. Barton and J. K. Molumby.

*Murphy-Haugen Contest*—Early in 1909, the name of D. D. Murphy had been proposed as the democratic candidate for congress. Mr. Murphy stood well with the Democrats of the district, was a brilliant orator, a successful lawyer and known as one of Iowa's leading educators. On the other hand the position of Republican congressmen between the two factions was exceedingly critical. Neither Haugen, Republican, nor Murphy, Democrat, had opposition for the nomination, but in the election Mr. Murphy gave Mr. Haugen the only close race he has had in his long congressional career. At the November election, 1910, Clayton county had a Democratic landslide. Porter carried the county for governor by 754, while Mr. Murphy for congress received the large majority of 1,402. The only Republican elected was C. F. Meier who, for his second term for treasurer, received a majority of 679. Mr. Murphy at the urgent request of his Democratic friends contested the election with Mr. Haugen and this contest was not decided until May, 1912, when Haugen was declared elected by the committee of the House of Representatives.

*Campaign of 1912*—By 1912, matters had gone from bad to worse with the Republican party. At the Chicago convention, W. H. Taft was renominated, but not until after there had been a most bitter convention fight which resulted in the withdrawal of the progressives under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt and his nomination at the head of a third party. Very naturally, this affected Republican politics in every state and county. In August, 1912, H. L. Griffith issued a call for a progressive county convention. This was held and H. L. Griffith, F. L. Wellman, C. F. Meier, Charles Monlux, R. G. Kingsley, O. O. Johnson, F. S. Richards, F. L. Williams and E. O. Glesne were the delegates to the Progressive state convention. Mr. Griffith was chairman of the county committee. The Progressives placed no county ticket in the field, but made an aggressive fight for their national ticket. A. J. Carpenter was chairman of the Republican central committee and, at the county convention, F. C. Gilmore, D. W. Meier, W.



W. Davidson, A. Porter, A. C. Boyle, V. T. Price, E. C. Spaulding, J. E. Reilly, Charles Newberry, J. E. Robertson, J. F. Widman and W. J. Bierman, Jr., were delegates to the judicial convention. At the primary election, June, 1912, the Republicans had contests for United States senator, governor and congressman, and the Democrats for governor and for congressman. There were no contests for county nominations and the vote was very light on this account, less than 2,000 votes being cast in the county. P. G. Holden carried the county by a plurality of 31 for the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

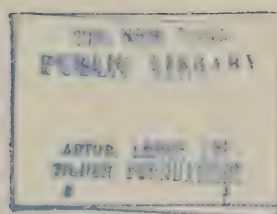
In the November election the Republican vote was divided almost in two, Roosevelt, Progressive, having a majority of 232 over Taft, Republican, and Wilson, Democrat, receiving a plurality of 1,448. The Republicans were more united for governor and the plurality of E. G. Dunn, Democrat, was 846. On the county ticket Adam, Graf and Becker, Republicans, were elected for auditor, treasurer and superintendent, the balance of the ticket was Democratic. Shortly prior to the election Superintendent T. R. Roberts had resigned to take the superintendency of the McGregor schools. At the election, in 1912, C. W. Bean was elected to fill the vacancy. The result of the presidential election was the election of Wilson, and, owing to the division of the Republican vote, he received a large majority in the electoral college and had a plurality, but not a majority, of the popular vote.

At the primary election, held in June, 1914, the Progressives did not participate, and the Republican primary vote was less than 1,000 and the Democratic vote was less than 1,200. Among the Democrats there were but two contests, Vina Katschkowsky defeated J. J. Finnegan, for recorder, by 96 and J. P. Meyer won the three cornered fight for supervisor by a plurality of 33. Among the Republicans, A. B. Cummins carried the county for United States senator by 338. The only contest on the Republican county ticket was for recorder, which was won by John Foster by a majority of 53. The election of 1914, was a reflection of the spirit of the times, which was for a breaking away from party ties. Thus, while A. B. Cummins, Republican, carried the county for United States senator by a plurality of 226, John T. Hamilton, Democrat, for governor, carried the county by 81. Again on the county ticket Republicans and Democrats were elected by large majorities. For auditor John Adam, Republican, received the largest majority (1,876), ever given in a contested election; while E. Bergemeyer, Democrat, for sheriff, had 1,689 majority, and G. J. Graf, Republican, for treasurer, received a majority of 1,525. There were at this time three elections to fill vacancies, for the office of attorney, of coroner and of supervisor. The only close contests were for supervisor, George Pixler, Republican, defeating C. H. Heubner by 7, and E. W. Kregel, Republican, defeating L. D. Moser, who had been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Supervisor Groth, by a majority of 71.

*Recent Politics*—In April, 1916, the first primary was held under the presidential preference law. As there was but one avowed candidate on each ticket, A. B. Cummins, Republican, and Woodrow Wilson, Democrat, little interest was taken and the total vote did not exceed 1,000, although the expense was almost as great as at a regular election. The only contest which aroused any interest was for national

committeeman. In this county John T. Adams, Republican, received a majority of 126 and W. W. Marsh, Democrat, a majority of 81. The primary of June, 1916, attracted the largest vote of any yet held. Among the Democrats there were contests for the nominations for auditor, which Fred C. Seemann won over E. G. Pebler by 436; and for sheriff, which was a three-cornered fight, in which E. Bergemeyer won over D. L. Barton and E. Bergman with a plurality of 125. Among the Republicans there were no contests on the county ticket except for sheriff in which John G. Reidel defeated F. A. Robinson by 69. The chief interest among the Republicans centered on the governorship for which there were four candidates. W. L. Harding, who campaigned the county, in 1912, received a plurality of 209 over Carl F. Kuehnle, while Joseph H. Allen ran third and George Cosson fourth. By the legislature the mulct law was repealed, in 1915, and this left the old prohibitory law effective throughout the state after January 1, 1916. This closed the saloons of the county which had been in operation for more than twenty years under the provisions of the mulct law.

*Suffrage Election*—Early in 1915 agitation for woman suffrage was commenced. The legislature authorized a vote of the people and a vigorous campaign was made by the suffragists throughout the state. A meeting at Elkader, March 15, 1916, was addressed by Mrs. Elsie V. Benedict who also spoke at McGregor. Meetings were also held by those opposed to equal suffrage and it was one of the chief features of the primary campaign. The amendment was defeated in Clayton county by 987, and in the state by 6,000. At the county conventions, held according to law on July 1, 1915, the Democrats filled vacancies on their ticket as follows: For representative, A. B. Albrecht; coroner, Michael Regan; supervisors, L. D. Zahrdt and Adam Erbe. The Republicans completed their ticket by the nomination of Charles Monlux, for recorder, and left the nomination for clerk to be filled by the county committee. At the national convention, Charles E. Hughes was nominated for president by the Republicans and Theodore Roosevelt by the Progressives. Mr. Roosevelt declined the nomination and announced his support of Hughes. At the Democratic convention, at St. Louis, Woodrow Wilson was renominated for president without opposition. As this campaign is now on and as this history is intended to avoid any suspicion of partisanship, nothing is said as to the issues involved or the party alignments or candidates.







CHURCH, EDGEWOOD

CHURCH, ST. OLAF

HIGH SCHOOL, FARMERSBURG

OSTERDOCK CREAMERY

MAIN STREET, ST. OLAF

MAIN STREET, ELKPORT

STREET SCENE, FARMERSBURG

JOURNAL BLOCK, EDGEWOOD

## CHAPTER XIII

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### A CHAPTER OF BEGINNINGS

#### BRIEF REVIEW OF ORIGIN OF TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS AND FIRST SETTLEMENTS

MANY matters related in this chapter have been given before from time to time for it has been the purpose to tell the story of the county in narrative form, giving the events in the sequence in which they occurred. However, to condense as a matter of reference these few pages are devoted to a brief statement of the origin of the different towns and townships of the county.

*Boardman Township* was named in honor of Elisha Boardman, who, with Horace D. Bronson, first, settled the township, in 1836. Other early settlers were Baldwin Olmstead, Freedom Howard, John Downie, Jerry Gould, Joel Post, Michael and John Stence, John Roberts P. R. Moore and H. H. Singer. Miss Malissa Howard taught the first school in a log school house in Pony Hollow. The first election was held in Mr. Boardman's house in 1838 and the first Fourth of July celebration was on the table rock back of A. D. Cook's residence. The first Protestant services were held by Rev. Sidney Wood and the first Catholic services by Rev. Father Cretin.

*Elkader* was surveyed in 1845 by John M. Gay for Timothy Davis, John Thompson and Chester Sage, who wished to establish a town near the site of their mill. The town was named after Abd-el-Kader an Algerian hero. The first dwelling was built by Chester Sage and the first store and the first hotel were built by Thompson, Sage and Davis. The mills were commenced in 1846 and completed in 1849. The first bridge was built in 1851 and prior to that time passengers crossed below the dam by boat attached to a line stretched across the river. The first newspaper was the Tribune with Mr. Belfoy as editor. This paper was established in 1855 in order to aid in the fight for the county seat and lived but two years. The first school house was built in 1847 on land donated by Thompson, Sage and Davis and was taught by Miss Woodward. The first church edifice was the Congregational church on Main street, built in 1857 and the first lodge was of the Masonic order established in 1855. The first and last steamboat was the "Elkader," which landed freight here in 1854. The first building of importance aside from the mill was erected by E. G. Rolf in 1853. This building was for ten years used as the court house. The first

brick residence was built in 1851 and is now the home of Hon. R. E. Price.

The postoffice at Elkader was established February 17, 1848. The first postmaster was Amasa A. Briggs.) His successors and the dates of their appointment are as follows: H. D. Bronson, July 11, 1849; E. D. Stockton, February 8, 1855; John Partch, October 16, 1855; Robert L. Freeman, May 19, 1856; Buel Knapp, October 2, 1857; Fielding Snedigar, March 29, 1861; A. F. Tipton, October 6, 1868; F. W. Shannon, February 10, 1873; T. G. Price, February 24, 1881; D. G. Griffith, September 10, 1885; J. M. Leach, May 14, 1889; J. G. Hagensick, October 20, 1893; Gideon Gifford, October 5, 1897; Vellas L. Gilje, January 31, 1907; F. H. Soll, March 23, 1915; Carl Reicecke, Jr., January 27, 1916. (The money order business was established August 6, 1886, and rural routes were established in July, 1903. The office has had a record of steady growth and the service at this time is excellent both as to equipment and the office efficiency.)

*Buena Vista Township* was the first set apart in the county. It was first occupied by miners who were not settlers and who left but little trace save in the rocks in which they dug for ore. Among the first real settlers were Syrus Henderson, Joseph Heinrich, William Foster and Robert Bunker. The dwelling of George Cleaveland was bought by the township and was the first school house, the school being taught by Miss Mary Shipton. For many years the principal merchants were R. and E. Meuth who established themselves in 1857. The township was named from the great American victory at Buena Vista during the war with Mexico.

*Cass Township* was named in honor of General Louis Cass. Joseph Hewett who lived on the line of Cass and Sperry township was the first settler in 1844. The first election was held in 1850 and in the following year the first school was opened and taught by Alexander Blake. The first postoffice was established in 1854 with E. L. Gardener as postmaster. The first mill was built by David Mann on Spring Branch.

*Strawberry Point* was laid out in 1853 by W. H. and D. M. Stearns under the name of Franklin. The name Strawberry Point was already known and was preferred by the people and later adopted. The Blake house was the first hotel and was built in 1854. The first creamery was established by Busher and Grannis in 1867. The first church organization was the Baptist in 1856. The main facts concerning Cass township and Strawberry Point are given in a separate chapter taken from an address by Hon. D. W. Newberry.

*Clayton Township* was the one first seen by Marquette when he landed on Iowa soil. There is no record of settlement until 1812, but along the shores of this township passed all the traffic of the Mississippi and it was one of the favorite haunts both of the Indians and of the French traders. In 1812, however, there is record of settlement made by Chevalier Marais. A member of the old nobility he was one of those who escaped the guillotine in the bloody days of the French revolution and came as a penniless emigre to the wilds of the west. Near the mouth of Buck creek he established a small trading post and here he traded with the Indians until news



of the restoration told him that he could return in safety to his beloved France. While here he married the daughter of an Indian chief and it is to his credit that he took her with him on his return to France. This trading post was not named by Marais but it was known by the Americans as Frenchton. After Marais' departure the post was occupied by La Poine and La Tranch and it was to their landing where many of the early settlers brought their first supplies.

Gillette and McMasters received supplies at Frenchton, but they did not locate in Clayton township and the first to enter lands were Orrin Keeler and James Powell, who established a ferry at the foot of Sny Magill and laid out a town which they named Keeleroy. The first warehouse was built at this town in 1848 by B. F. Fox and A. C. Rogers. In 1849 Frank Smith of Dubuque who had associated himself with the Elkader Milling Company located at the site of the village of Clayton which they selected as the best place for a landing, as a convenient shipping point for the product of the Elkader Mill. This firm known as Frank Smith & Co. sold a half interest in the town to Noble, Watson & Douglas of Garnavillo. The town was named as was the county in honor of John M. Clayton. The subsequent history of Clayton has been given in other chapters. Frank Smith & Co. built the first store and Clark & Rogers the first warehouse. The first sawmill was built in 1853 and a flour mill in 1858. Among the first settlers of the township were Ralph Campbell, C. H. Kaumpel, W. C. Stearns and John Lossing.

*Cox Creek Township* was named after the first settler, Phillip Cox, who settled there in 1842. William Bente, Dennis Quigley, James Dickerson, Samuel Himes, Norman Scoville, George S. Peck and Norman Lanphere, Avery Clarke and William Cane were among the settlers before 1850. Rev. Henry Gifford held the first church services in the township in 1848. The town of Littleport was laid out in 1857 by Dennis Quigley, but the town was of inconsiderable importance until the coming of the railroad, in 1874.

*Mederville* was first known as St. Johan and was laid out by Louis Reuther and Henry Meder. A sawmill and a residence had been erected there in 1854 by James Beatty but when the town was laid out Reuther erected a store and together with Meder built both a saw and a flour mill. Joseph Unternahrer also opened a blacksmith shop. John Nugent taught the first school in 1857. A postoffice was established in 1870 with Henry Meder as postmaster.

*Osborne* was established by Thomas and Elizabeth Osborne in 1879, the postoffice, with J. J. McDermitt as postmaster, having been established the year before. With the coming of the railroad Osborne became a busy little village and for some years during the troubles with eastern Iowa it was the nearest shipping point for Elkader.

*Elk Township* was named on account of the abundance of elk which roamed its woods and pastured on its hills. Lemuel Johnson was the first settler. Others before 1850 were John Garber, Joseph Grimes, A. J. Lewis, Dennis Quigley, Thomas Cole, William Beyer, Chris Sarver, James Cole, John Roan, Davis Bagdy and Mart W. Lovett. Isaac Otis and son were the men who gave this town-

ship its early impetus. They built a store and blacksmith shop in 1852 and a grist mill in 1855 and in 1860 a woolen mill which did a good business for a number of years and which was famous throughout Iowa for the excellence of its goods. The first saw mill was erected in 1848 by Joseph Grimes and James Cole. The first school house was of log in 1850 and was taught by David M. Zearley. The first magistrate was Joseph Grimes.

*Farmersburg Township* was named by Thomas Street. Peter Eastman was the first settler in 1846. Others were John Francis, James Jones, W. and D. Barber, M. Van Sickle, Joseph Tassro, O. Brown, M. B. Sherman and William Linton. At the first election held in 1850 there was a contest as to the location of the polling place which McGregor won over Farmersburg. This led to a petition for a division of the precinct and the township of Farmersburg was established.

*Farmersburg* was owned by S. T. Woodward, J. B. Smith, A. M. Cortis and others and was surveyed by Norman Hamilton. Alva Hazen built the first log house in the village in 1848. The first store was opened by P. R. Moore in 1858. William Harar established a saw mill in 1855. In 1854 when the postoffice was located with Isaac Stoddard as postmaster the name of National was adopted. National has been for many years the seat of the county fair. With the coming of the Iowa Eastern business gravitated to the railroad the old name of Farmersburg was used and National became known only as the location of the fair. The first church was the Methodist organized in 1847 by Rev. E. Howard. The present site of Farmersburg was first known as Windsor and was owned by J. C. Russell and surveyed in 1856. Simon Huntington was the first storekeeper and the first residence was built by George Potter. The postoffice was established in 1857 with Huntington as postmaster.

*Bismarck* was a town platted by Johnson Campbell in 1875. Land for depot purposes was donated to the Iowa Eastern and a store was opened. When the narrow gauge was sold to the Milwaukee the station was removed and an appeal was made to the Iowa railway commissioners and the depot was ordered to be restored. This was done, but later the town was abandoned.

*Garnaville* was first settled by Dr. Frederick Andros in 1836. John Gillette soon followed him and Andrew S. Cooley, George W. Whitman and the great trio of Reuben Noble, Samuel Murdock and E. H. Williams were among the earlier settlers. Among the others was James Watson, A. C. Rogers, W. H. Stevens, William Schoulte, Gerhard Kregel, B. F. Schroeder, Robert Drips, Levi Angier, Samuel Holmes, John Hochaus and Detrich Schroeder. The first church and the first school house was a frame building built in 1844. A brewery was built in 1855. The first newspaper in the county was established by H. S. Granger in 1853.

*Ceres* was a postoffice on the southern line of the township which has since been abandoned.

*Jacksonville* was laid out by a legislative commission appointed to locate a new county seat for Clayton county. James Watson donated the land and C. F. Edson made the survey in 1844. In 1846 the legis-

lature permitted the name to be changed and there are various stories as to how the name Garnavillo was selected. One is that the committee met at Jacksonville for the purpose and that prior to their meeting they sat at the tavern spending a social hour and that Judge Noble sang several songs among which was one about sweet Kate of Garnavillo and that Judge Murdock was so taken with the song that he declared that Garnavillo be the name selected and this was agreed upon. It is said that this was the way in which the German village came to be named for an Irish lass. The story of the early days of Garnavillo as the county seat has been told in prior chapters. The first hotel was erected by John Banfil in 1844 and it was a noted place of meeting for the lawyers and wits of the early days. The Garnavillo lodge of Odd Fellows was established in 1850 and is the oldest lodge in the county. Garnavillo is the oldest community in the county having a distinct village life.

*Giard Township* was named in honor of Basil Giard whose land grant from the King of Spain which was made in 1795 has already been dwelt upon. C. S. Edson came to the township in 1836 and other early settlers were A. E. Wanzer, S. A. Goss, William Clement, Hugh Graham and Ira B. Briggs. Mary J. Niel was the first teacher in a log cabin which was built for a residence. The first religious services were held in private homes by Rev. Knight.

*Giard Village* was surveyed in May, 1871, by Norman Hamilton. The German Episcopal church was organized in 1847 and the first church built in 1855. This township was on the great military road from McGregor to Fort Atkinson and through it passed the thousands of emigrants destined for points in northern Iowa and southern Minnesota. The first house built in Giard was by John Hagerty, the murder of whose wife and children was one of the darkest tragedies in the county history.

*Beulah* was a station on the Milwaukee which came into prominence as the junction point with the Elkader line. W. C. Brown, later president of the New York Central railway was the first operator at Beulah.

*Froelich* is a station on the Elkader branch named in honor of the man upon whose farm it was located.

*Grand Meadow Township* was named by Judge E. H. Williams and is all that the name implies. Caton, Wheeler, Rowe, Hardy Barnes, Henry Fewel and Joel Post were among the earliest settlers. A few years later this township was one which received a large Norwegian immigration. There are no towns in the township but it is one of the richest from an agricultural standpoint.

*Highland Township* was named from its physical features. Among the early settlers were Holbrook, Robbins, Mullenix, Moats, Pool, Dark, Barnham, Doety, Orr, McKeller and Callagan. The township was organized in 1854 and the first election held at the home of Francis Robbins. The first school houses were built in 1854. The United Brethren church was the first represented, services of that denomination beginning as early as 1853.

*Jefferson Township* was designated as precinct No. 6 by the commissioners in 1847. Nine years prior to that time there had been a



voting precinct at Prairie la Porte, the first county seat which was surveyed in 1839. The county buildings and the tavern run by Herman Graybill constituted about all of Prairie la Porte and the removal of the county seat left it practically deserted. The Western Settlement Society purchased land from the government north and south of Prairie la Porte and soon after purchased this also from the county and founded the city of Guttenberg. The first German settlers sent out by the society reached Guttenberg in 1845. The first house in Guttenberg was built by Overbeck and Telgemeier. Guttenberg was incorporated under a special charter in 1851. This was done in order that non-resident land owners might be taxed for the improvement of the city. The settlement society was a semi-benevolent institution and assisted many especially among the German revolutionists to secure homes in the new country. In this way Guttenberg was settled rapidly and by a homogeneous population. The first mayor was Christian Weis. The prominent facts in the history of Guttenberg have been given in prior chapters.

*Lodomillo Township*—Two stories are told concerning the naming of this township, neither of which bears the stamp of great probability. One is that Schuyler Peet asked an Indian to assist him to load a heavy fanning mill and that the Indian indignantly replied that he would not "load-o-millo-o," and another is that it was named for a large watermelon patch, the term load of melons being corrupted to Lodomillo. This was the home of the "Yankee Settlement" distinguishing it from those parts of the county which were settled largely by Germans and Irish. Among the first settlers were a Mr. Lyon, in 1844, and Isaac Preston, Horace Bemis, the Madison brothers, George L. Wheeler, Rev. N. W. Bixby, Oliver Nathan, Moses Purdy, Frank Reily, J. F. Noble, S. R. Peet, Henry Brown and John Gibson. The first school house was built in 1846 and there is a legend to the effect that the women of the community, thinking it unsuitable and failing to get the men to build another, quietly set fire to it. The first religious services were held at the home Schuyler Peet by Rev. Joel Taylor. The first election was held in 1845. The village of Yankee Settlement later became Edgewood and with the coming of the railroad it became a prosperous community. Yankee Settlement was platted by John and Rosanna Gibson in 1856 and great efforts were made to sell lots and build up the community, it being advertised that lots would be given free to mechanics and other inducements were offered, but the settlement never grew to importance until just prior to the coming of the railroad in 1872-3. The first house in Edgewood was built by Joseph Belman and the first school house was erected in 1874 with Miss Lane as teacher. Dr. D. W. Chase and Dr. Louis Blanchard were the pioneer physicians, Dr. Chase coming in 1855 and Dr. Blanchard succeeding him in 1865. One of the first industries was a brick yard started in 1850 by Edwin Steele and the first postoffice in the township was established in 1851.

*Mallory Township* was one of the earliest settled, Thomas Clinton and the three VanSickle brothers, Martin, Moses and Jacob, locating there in 1833. Samuel D. and Douglas Peck, Sol Wadsworth and Edward Dickens were among the other pioneers. The township was for many years without a postoffice or a village and it was not until

the coming of the railroad that Osterdock was laid out on the north line of the township in 1877. The first lots, however, were surveyed in 1872, the owners being the Bowman family. In 1854 a church of the United Brethren was organized, Luther McVey being the first pastor. The first church was built in 1859.

*Marion Township* narrowly escaped being called Morasser. The story of its name has been already told. The township was organized in 1855, being detached from Wagner township. J. C. Rounds was the strong man of the township and at the first election he was elected clerk, justice of the peace and assessor. The first postoffice was located in 1857 at Mr. Rounds' house and was known as Gem. This was discontinued and the only postoffice in the township at present is known as Gunder. The Dunkards had a church organization in this township at an early day, meetings being held at the different homes until 1854, when the first church was erected. This township also enjoyed a large Norwegian settlement and a Norwegian Lutheran church was built in 1873.

*Mendon*, the northeast township of the county, was altered in its line several times. It contains a greater part of the old Giard grant and it is a township of great scenic beauty. Its location opposite Prairie du Chien and at the head of the most available route to the western counties gives this township a peculiarly interesting and cosmopolitan history. The history of this township is practically included in the history of McGregor and this has been given quite fully in prior chapters.

*McGregor* was named for Alexander McGregor who established a ferry at McGregor's Landing in 1836. The building of Fort Atkinson in 1840 made McGregor a point of importance. McGregor made his residence on the east bank of the river in 1847, and later the town grew so rapidly that it was incorporated under a special charter in May, 1857, A. T. Jones being the first mayor. This charter was abandoned in 1863 and the regular city charter provided by law was adopted. The first school house was a small brick structure built in 1850 by Alexander McGregor. The postoffice was established in 1849 with H. D. Evans as postmaster. The first bank in the county was that of Lee and Kinniard in 1856. The first church services were held in a carpenter shop in 1852 under the auspices of the Methodist church with Rev. Elisha Warner as the preacher. The first lodge was Bezer lodge of the Masonic order founded in the early part of 1857, the Odd Fellows organizing in October of the same year.

*North McGregor*, which was to become a formidable rival to McGregor, first came into prominence as the terminus of the railroad to the west and as a short cut between that line and the Milwaukee at Prairie du Chien. This drew heavily upon the business of McGregor and there was at one time much feeling between the two towns. North McGregor was incorporated in May, 1874, and the first mayor was George Keen who was also the president of the first school board. The large foundry of the Thompson & Keen Company and the Fleming saw mill added largely to the importance of North McGregor, but these industries suffered heavily by fire and flood.



*West McGregor* was incorporated March, 1881, Michael Kline was the mayor from that time until the incorporation was abandoned in 1901. The main industry of this suburb was the West McGregor brewery which was founded in 1857 by Michael Burnetts. Michael Kline and John VanStaden were the owners for many years however.

*Millville Township* was the first actually settled by Americans, in 1833. The settlement came about through natural causes. The pioneers crossed the Mississippi to the mouth of the Turkey and one of the first things necessary for them was a mill where logs might be sawed and grist ground. They pushed up the Turkey river and stopped at the first place where there was sufficient fall and sufficient power for a mill. The name of the township was easily derived from the mill and the mill ville which sprang up about it. Quigley, Hatfield, Price, Wayman, Grant and others were among these pioneers and all the others, such men as Andros, Boardman, Bronson, Correll and Griffith, undoubtedly made this their first stopping place. Millville was among the first townships organized, the first election being held in 1838 at which time David Springer was elected justice. As has been shown the boundaries of the township were changed from time to time and Millville embraced a larger territory than it does today. The post-office at Millville was established at an early day, with Isaac Preston as postmaster. The office at Turkey river was not established until 1871, with John Moore as postmaster. In the 50's P. C. Balsinger and E. C. Jeffries laid out a town which they called Jefferson in the southwest part of the township. Jeffries had a store and a mill there and the history of 1882 gives the population as 50. The town was generally known as Jeffriesville and the postoffice was given the name of Graham, which it bears today, although the population is not so large as it was in 1882. The town of Millville was platted in 1856.

*Monona Township*—Monona is the only township in the county which bears an Indian name. This is all the more strange because the surrounding counties have many Indian names: Allamakee, Winneshie, Chickasaw, Blackhawk, Delaware, Waukon, Decorah, Waucoma and scores of other names in northeastern Iowa are of Indian origin but in this county it was the American pioneers and not the aborigine who left his impress in nomenclature. The original spelling was Mononah and was selected by a vote of the people when the township was organized June 7, 1847. Nearly a fourth of Monona and practically all of Great Meadow were included in the Neutral Grounds. While the Winnebagoes were on their reservation Monona was one of the nearest and most convenient points where traders and illicit whiskey dealers might come in touch with the Indians. For this reason it was a very wild and rough community in the early days. Fortunately the rougher element followed the Indian and left the township to the peaceable and order-loving settlers. Such men as P. P. Olmstead, S. Cummings, David Olmstead, A. P. Depue, E. D. Button, E. Bonnell and John Roberts were among the better class of citizens, as were P. R. Moore, John Zimmerman and James King. By 1847, there were forty residents in the township. The postoffice was established in 1849 with P. P. Olmstead as postmaster and in the same



year a store was started. The first school was taught at the Olmstead home in 1845. One of the distinctive features of Monona township was the Clydesdale colony.

*The Clydesdale Company* was organized in Scotland on the fourth day of April, 1849, for the purpose of acquiring land in some suitable locality in the United States, in which to establish, by means of the united capital and industry of its partners, a comfortable home for themselves and families where they may follow a more simple, useful and rational mode of life than is found practicable in the complex and competitive state of society, from which they have been anxious to retire. The above is the wording of a quaint agreement under which this band of sturdy Scotchmen came to Clayton county in 1850. James Freebairn was president and John McAndrew, James Love, John Jack, Robert St. Clair, John Davy, David Drummond, John Campbell, Andrew Anderson, John McHuffy, John Craig and Alexander McKinsley, with their families, were the colonists. The community idea did not persist but the splendid Scotch blood did much to enrich the county.

*Monona* was platted July, 1851, additions being made to it from time to time. The store and postoffice were established before the town was platted. The boom days of Monona took place when it was the terminus for the McGregor and Western, for the great overland trade naturally stopped at the nearest railroad point. As the rails travelled westward Monona became, like other towns, dependent upon its immediate trade territory. This is rich, fertile, and fairly extensive, and Monona has always been a prosperous community.

*Hardin*, located in the extreme northwest corner of the township, was surveyed in January, 1854, for Leonard B. Hodges. The first store was opened by A. D. Frazer and the second by R. T. Burnham. Hardin was located on one of the main arteries of travel to the northwest and was a popular port of call and trading point before the coming of the railroad and it has been able to maintain its identity as an inland village since that time.

*Luana* is of later origin and grew up with the railroads. It was surveyed in 1867 and W. S. Scott, the proprietor, named it in honor of his wife, Luana. It has been a rival of Strawberry Point as a creamery center. The village is located on the Jacob Zimmerman farm where he lived in 1853. The first residence in Luana was built by R. P. Oliver and the first store by William Mott. The postoffice was established in 1864 with James M. Chapman as postmaster. Mrs. Wiltsee taught the first school in Monona township in a dwelling owned by P. P. Olmstead at Monona. For ten years there were no schools in the township except at Monona. In 1857, schools were located in a log building which had formerly been a saloon. Miss Priscilla L. Winter and Miss Clementine Fonda were the teachers. The first school house was built in 1856.

*Read Township* was organized March 4, 1856, and named in honor of Robert R. Read. It was one of the first townships settled, but was largely tributary to Garnavillo. Joel Post settled there in 1838 and among the other early comers were Martin Brassell, C. Gallagher, A. Falkner, Patrick and Eugene Rogers, A. Griswell, Elias Misner and

Mrs. Mary Uriell with her three sons, Patrick, Michael and John. This was a Catholic community and the first church services were held by Father Joseph Cretin in 1841, but the first church building was that erected by the Lutherans at Clayton Center in 1856.

*Clayton Center* is one of the old towns of the county and it still keeps its identity as a prosperous inland village. It was surveyed in 1856 by Fred Hartman, who had the first house in the town, while J. L. Hagensick was the first merchant.

*Motor* was platted in the south part of the township in 1875 by James O. Crosby and grew up about the large stone mill.

*Sperry Township*—John Paddelford must be accredited as the real founder of Sperry township. He first located in 1842 and made a permanent settlement in 1845 and for many years was the dominant force in the township. Among the other early settlers were Joseph Hewett, Asa Parks, James Lowe, F. G. Cummings, William Boots and Nichols, Taylor, Chilson and Silvers. The first school was at the residence of F. G. Cummings and the first election was in 1847.

*Volga City* was established in 1851. S. Harvey, W. H. Gould, G. L. Tremain and Woodward and Lowe were among the early merchants. Long before the coming of the railroad Volga was a thriving community and Sperry was one of the most intensely Union townships of the county, the Volga Rifles being formed in response to the first call for troops. With the railroad Volga gained new right and importance and continued as a prosperous business center.

*Volga Township* was named after the river as was Volga City and the river, in turn, was named after the great river in Russia. W. W. Wayman was the first settler, but the first farmer, for Wayman was a trader and trapper, was Frederick Hartge, who located in 1842, at what is now Elkport. Asa Gifford and son George, Dennis Quigley, Michael Stence, Bishop and Robert Fuller, Hiram Walbridge, Dan Justice, Christian Sarver, Jacob Rounds and John Garber were pioneer settlers. The first school was taught in 1853 by Martin Garber and the first school house was built in Elkport in 1854. Elders Gifford and Bixby held the first religious services in 1848. The first grist mill was built on Elk Creek in 1860, this mill was afterwards owned by A. C. Tiede and was one of the most important in the county. The first election was held at Elkport in 1847.

*Elkport* was platted in 1855 by Frederick Hartge and wife, although it had been known as a village for a dozen years prior. Hartge built the first house in 1842 and worked as a blacksmith. He also built the first saw mill in 1843. The Garbers were the first merchants. Dr. McCullough, in 1857, was the first physician and William Borton, in 1852 established the first hotel. The postoffice also was established in 1852 with John Garber as postmaster.

*East Elkport*, now known as *Garber* was surveyed in 1872 by John Garber, who was the first postmaster. It is now practically a part of Elkport.

*Communia* was the name given the location of the community colony. This was an interesting but fruitless experiment in communion. It was founded in St. Louis in 1847, the founders being Joseph Venus, Jacob Ponsar, Frederick Meister, Henry Babe, Fred-

erick Lochsen, Carl Reger, Carl Hoen, John Hofstaedter, Frederick Koenig and Isaac Nagel, the latter of French descent. They were duly incorporated on a communistic basis and Joseph Venus was president. Anyone who wished to join after being elected, contributed all he had to the general fund, which he could withdraw when he left the society. These men were artisans and not farmers and to the ordinary pioneer hardships were added the mistakes of inexperience. Nevertheless they prospered on account of their industry and frugality. The original purchase consisted of 400 acres in sections 7, 8 and 18 of Volga and 13 and 14 of Cox Creek. The enterprise did not last long, as a community, the more industrious tiring of supporting the shirkers. Then, too, when it came to withdrawing it was found that it was no easy matter to divide an estate which had been bought in common. The matter went to the courts and there was long and expensive litigation before the community was finally divided. Those of the colonists who remained were among the best citizens of the county.

*Wagner Township* was named after John Wagner, Sr., who settled there in 1846. The township was organized in 1852 and other pioneers were A. E. Wanzer, Joseph Steiner, John Hopas, William Patterson and Phillip Walter. Early traders were Williams, Ebersoll and Redick. The first school was taught in Pony Hollow by Sarah J. Patterson. The township was later settled largely by Norwegians who largely controlled the destinies of the township after their coming. St. Olaf was established on the line of the Iowa Eastern in 1874, and before the railroad reached Elkader it was an important shipping point. H. H. Strum was the first postmaster in 1874. The Norwegian Lutheran church was established in 1854. Wagner postoffice was the pioneer postoffice of the township, being established in 1859. William Monlux, W. P. Eno and Milo P. Clark were some of the strong men of this township and James M. (Yankee) Hill was a well known character.





## CHAPTER XIV

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### PRESENT VIEW OF COUNTY—REVIEW OF COUNTY AND TOWNS WITH BRIEF HISTORY OF CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

CLAYTON—EDGEWOOD—ELKADER—ELKPORT AND GARBER—FARMERSBURG—GARNAVILLO—GIARD—GUTTENBERG—LITTLEPORT—MONONA  
M'GREGOR—NORTH M'GREGOR—OSTERDOCK—ST. OLAF—STRAWBERRY  
POINT—VOLGA CITY.

**C**LAYTON is one of the most beautiful of the ninety-nine counties of Iowa. On its eastern border wooded hills and bluffs arise abruptly from the Mississippi. These are dark with the green of dense woods with here and there the rugged outline of sheer granite cliffs, approaching in grandeur the palisades of the Hudson. From the heights the beautiful panorama of the Father of Waters is spread before the entranced vision. Nestled deep in the valleys are glimpses of prosperous and handsome villages, the tall church spires and substantial buildings giving evidence of the high development of their civilization. Back from the Mississippi the hills rise less abruptly, but from the ridges there are views of miles upon miles of broad, deep cut valleys through which run clear rapidly flowing rivers, and which present a scene of wonderful agricultural progress. Heavily wooded slopes, a bright gold of ripening grain, the emerald ranks of corn, stately farm homes with great barns which tell of the bounty of the harvest, pastures filled with rich long grasses and herds of sleek cattle which plainly show the strains of noble blood, all of these go to make up the picture of Clayton County as it is today.

It is not alone the villages with their air of comfort and of wealth which appeal to the visitor, but the many palatial homes which dot the prairies throughout the county; the homes which contain every convenience and luxury of the most modern city home. Poverty, such as is seen in the large cities and in some of the rural districts of the United States is wholly unknown to Clayton county. Education is as widespread as the material prosperity, and the excellent roads, the many churches and the large number of social organizations give evidence of the high state of culture which obtains.

As has been seen throughout this history, Clayton county has been, as a rule, particularly fortunate in its county government. Few counties have received more nearly the worth of their money in their public im-

provements, all of which are substantial and well built. There are also evidences of the new spirit behind the road work of the county and the improvements now being made show system, careful planning and good execution. The county is represented in the senate of the state by Hon. Robert Quigley of McGregor, a son of one of the very earliest pioneers of the county, and in the house by Hon. William Becker of Elkader. The county officers are for the most part young and active and possessed of excellent clerical ability, and they seem to have been chosen for efficiency as well as for party service. The most important part of the government of an Iowa county is vested in the board of supervisors. E. W. Kregel, Charles Meder and George W. Pixler constitute the board for Clayton county. They are all practical men of affairs, considerable tax payers and men who have the interests of the county at heart. Other county officers are John Adam, auditor; G. J. Graf, treasurer; M. J. Hagensick, clerk; E. Bergemeyer, sheriff; Vina Katschkowsky, recorder; and W. J. Beerman, coroner. Under the new non-partisan system Carl F. Becker is doing excellent work as county superintendent, unhampered by politics. The affairs of the fine hospital which the county has erected for its incurable insane are under the management of L. L. Hulverson as superintendent and Mrs. Hulverson as matron; and the county home which is another institution of which the county is justly proud is under the control of William H. Koehn as steward and Mrs. Koehn as matron. The soldiers' relief commission consists of M. W. Thein, Theodore Sherman and T. M. Davidson as secretary. During the year of 1915 the sum of \$28,888.92 was expended by the county for road work and \$71,960.35 was spent for bridges. Under the present excellent management the net cost for the maintenance of the county home for 1915 was but \$3,905.23, and for the county hospital but \$6,478.69. The value of county property, exclusive of highways and bridges, was \$156,409. The total taxable value of the county, with all exemptions deducted, under the assessment of 1914 was \$9,623,941, with moneys and credits in addition to the extent of \$4,764,954, and this is one of the wealthiest counties in the state of Iowa.

The soil of the county is a deep and extremely fertile deposit with a clay subsoil which enables it to withstand conditions either of draught or of excessive moisture. Comparison of the farming communities of the different sections of the county, as a whole, would be invidious. The drainage is excellent and, considering the hilly nature of the country, there is remarkably little waste land, for while the hills which line the valleys are steep and precipitous, they lead back to broad tablelands, nearly all of which are under cultivation. In the present view, however, it is necessary to speak more particularly of the towns of the county, their present progress and their institutions. All the various organizations have been invited to furnish data for this history, and those which have responded are included in this account of the county as it appears today. The Catholic churches have been treated in a separate chapter.

#### CLAYTON

Clayton is now a village of 141 inhabitants. While it has lost that commercial importance which it held in the early days, both on



account of changed trade conditions and the great fire which left but one business house standing, it is still the home of a prosperous and contented people. F. C. Larson is mayor and James McGuire clerk of the village. There are excellent schools in charge of Minnie M. Pieper. Religious worship is held in the Catholic church, served by Rev. Father Raedler, of Garnavillo, and in the Methodist church, served by Rev. H. E. Smith, of Guttenberg. The Ladies' Aid Society of the M. E. church, with Mrs. J. E. Kernahan as president, and the Ladies' Social Circle, of which Mrs. A. M. Smasal is president, provide for the social life among the ladies, and the Modern Woodmen of America and the Brotherhood of Yeomen are the men's fraternities. There are good general stores and the town is prosperous.

### EDGEWOOD

Edgewood is a beautiful little town situated on the southern line of the county, part of the village being in Delaware county. It is the home of much wealth, business blocks are substantial, many of the residences are beautiful and all of them are comfortable. G. W. Fleming is mayor and E. B. Shaffer clerk of the city, and W. E. Richards postmaster. There are an excellent water system, good roads and an electric light plant, owned by the city, worth about \$12,000. In the heart of a rich dairying country, the creamery industry is the largest in the city, and it pays in the vicinity of \$200,000 a year to the farmers of the vicinity. There is a fine brick school building of twelve grades. The school consists of nine rooms, with a corps of eight teachers, with W. F. W. Jones as superintendent and Miss Elsie Hatch as principal. There is a twelve-year course of study, which includes agriculture, domestic science and manual training. The high school has recently been made one of the accredited schools of the state. C. B. Madison is president of the school board and G. E. Gates is clerk. The Edgewood Journal is a very live local paper, having a circulation in the two counties, and is edited by Floyd A. Peet. It was founded by Lacy F. Schaffer in 1888, and later was published by Ernest Q. Lain and printed in Strawberry Point, with R. J. Bixley as local editor. It was then known as the Hawkeye Siftings. B. W. Sheppard and C. A. Newman were later owners. In 1901 F. A. Peet purchased the business and has since been the editor. He was burned out in 1908 in the disastrous fire which swept the city. Church interests are represented by the Methodists, Congregationalists and Catholics. The latter have no church building, but have plans under way for the erection of a church in the near future.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational church of Edgewood was organized January 23, 1848. Rev. E. V. Turner was chairman of the first meeting, and among the first members were H. B. Brockway, Samuel and Charlotte Mulliken, Emily Brockway and Mrs. Lucy Noble. The organization was completed in March of the same year. Rev. H. M. Gates was the first regular pastor in 1853, and in October of that year it was decided to build a church. The congregation was incorporated November 16,

1854, as the First Congregational Church of York, Iowa, by Henry Brockway, Thomas Haskell, Seymour Platt and Charles Robinson. Among the pastors have been Rev. Graves, 1854; Rev. L. P. Mathews, 1862-1873; Rev. B. M. Amsden, 1873-1875; Rev. Chas. Hancock, 1875. The church was without a pastor for several years, and other pastors were as follows: Gorton, Kidd, Marsh, Kay, Aikman, Styles, Elser, Gorton, Beaty, H. A. Benton, 1889; H. A. Richardson, 1902; M. J. P. Thing, 1904-1907. The church was again without a pastor until 1914, when Mrs. C. W. Smith was placed in charge. She has done excellent work, and there is now an active Sunday school, Christian Endeavor and Junior Endeavor societies. The Sunday school has been maintained at all times. Eva Minkler is superintendent, and a feature is the large brotherhood class of fifty members conducted by R. J. Bixbey. The name of the church was changed from that of York to Yankee Settlement and later to Edgewood. A new church was built in 1881 under the supervision of Rev. Aikman and the parsonage in 1899 under Rev. H. A. Benton.

#### METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist church of Edgewood was organized in 1845 by Rev. Joel Taylor. The first members were F. C. Madison, Isaac Preston and wife and Nathaniel Purdy and wife. Rev. Taylor was the first pastor, and the first church was built in 1847 at a cost of \$800. It was 24 by 40 feet in size. The second church was built in 1881 at a cost of \$2,500, and the size was 30 by 50 feet. The third church was built in 1915 at a cost of \$7,000, and is 54 by 54 feet in size. The present pastor is G. L. Heiserman, and the membership is about 180.

Among the lodges there are the following:

#### WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS

Hiram Steele Relief Corps, organized Aug. 27, 1892, with fifteen charter members. The first officers were president, Mrs. E. R. Kinzie; S. V., Ellen J. Burgin; J. V., Effie Maxson; secretary, Hattie Garretson; treasurer, Cynthia Robinson; chaplain, Emily Lane; conductress, Ellen Hoosier; guard, Tillie Garretson. The present membership is forty-three, and meetings are held the first and third Saturdays of each month at M. W. A. hall. Hiram Steele post, to which this corps was auxiliary, has been disbanded by death, and it is the sad duty of the corps to decorate each year the forty graves of the veterans whose bodies lie in Edgewood cemetery.

#### PYTHIAN SISTERS

Purity Temple, No. 45, was organized Dec. 8, 1893, with twenty-two charter members. The first officers were: Chief, Mary Cole; senior, Ella Carrier; junior, Abbie Miller; manager, Ida Noble; secretary, Laura Whipple; treasurer, Alvira Newman; protector, Sada Whipple; guard, Effie Maxson; past chief, Belle Whipple; trustees, Mrs. Ida Elliott, Ida Mellen and Mrs. Wilcox. Marie Todd is the present chief. The membership is forty-two, and meetings are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. The deceased mem-

bers are: Rose Sheppard, Thursa Bowers, Jennie Richards, Ed Miller, Dr. M. M. Newman, M. F. Moine, S. T. Richards, Floy Farmer, John Haggerman, Eva Maxson.

#### BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMEN

Opal Homestead, No. 831, was organized Dec. 21, 1901. The first officers were: Foreman, Puss Davis; M. of C., Frieda Smith; correspondent, Eda Reed; chaplain, E. C. Noble; M. of A., Dr. M. M. Newman; overseer, Wm. Sactett; guard, Fred Smith; watchman, W. J. Alcorn; sentinel, Geo. Troup; Rowena, Ida Noble; Rebecca, Clara Haggerman. The deceased members are Mrs. Emma Fenstermann and Dr. M. M. Newman. Rowland Steefer is the present foreman. The homestead meets in the K. of P. hall on the second and last Thursdays of each month. The membership is seventy-eight.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Edgewood Lodge No. 358, Knights of Pythias, was organized by special dispensation December 29, 1892. Charter was obtained August 10th, 1893.

The first officers were: J. B. Morey, Past Chancellor; M. M. Newman, Chancellor Commander; W. C. Miller, Vice Chancellor; E. G. Shepard, Prelate; A. L. Carrier, Keeper of Records and Seal; R. S. Huntington, Master of Finance; E. E. Farwell, Master of Exchequer; E. R. Derby, Inner Guard; J. W. Garretson, Outer Guard; C. B. Madison, Master at Arms.

The deceased members are as follows: M. M. Newman, Myron Mellon, Alex Hammond, John Hageman, S. T. Richards, John King, W. D. Robinson, H. E. Willard, Geo. Woolridge, W. K. Pollard, S. W. Robinson, G. F. Ludwick, G. W. Lynde, Ira Bowers, G. D. Culbertson.

The present membership of the society is 59. This organization has a nice up-to-date lodge room.

#### MASONIC FRATERNITY

Avalon Lodge No. 606, A. F. & A. M., was chartered March 20, 1909. The first meeting was held March 29th, 1909. Each regular meeting is held on or before the full moon in each month.

The first officers were as follows: L. B. Blanchard, Worshipful Master; C. S. Todd, Senior Warden; C. B. Madison, Junior Warden; F. H. Hatch, Treasurer; G. W. Pilkington, Secretary; M. M. Newman, Senior Deacon; F. L. Weyant, Junior Deacon; George Hobbs, Tyler.

The names of the deceased members are as follows: Ira Bower, A. O. Seward, M. M. Newman, Mark Hamlett.

The present executive officers are as follows: F. L. Weyant, Worshipful Master; E. T. Hamlett, Secretary. The organization has at present a membership of 67. The society has a well equipped lodge room and everything necessary for putting on the work in an interesting and creditable manner.



## MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

Maple Leaf Camp No. 2655 was chartered January 2, 1895, with eighteen charter members. The first officers were Consul L. S. Fisher, Adviser Frank Densmore, Clerk J. B. Morey, Escort D. A. Sherman, Physician W. C. Miller, Managers L. D. Zahrndt and M. H. Bower. Other charter members were T. H. Baebly, J. H. Foster, Anton Funk, I. P. Gates, A. H. Glazier, C. S. Jones, Cyrus McKinnis, Ira F. Noble, James O'Rourke, E. G. Platt, W. S. and F. I. Woldridge and R. C. Wheeler. Deceased members are John Funk, W. D. Robinson, John Hageman, Joseph Willard, H. O. Stone, H. Hesner, L. J. Avery, Mark Hamlett, Emil Winkler and Anton Funk. All records of the lodge were lost by fire in 1908. The present executive officers are Arthur Weterlen, V. C. and C. S. Todd, clerk. There are 158 members and the degree team is considered one of the best in northern Iowa. Meetings first and third Wednesdays.

## ELKADER

Elkader, the county seat of Clayton county, lies in the hollow of God's hand. Surrounded on every side by high, majestic hills, with the river winding through it, singing merrily at work and play, with giant shade trees lining its streets, gifts of the forethought of the pioneers, with its hundreds of happy homes and handsome residences, it may surely come up to the ideal of the Peaceful Valley in many ways. Secure from storms on account of the encircling hills and secure from the stress of adversity by the great store-house of wealth of which it is the center, Elkader has little to fear from nature or from man.

Much space has been given to the events of Elkader's history and the present status is given here but briefly. W. W. Davidson is mayor and L. L. Hulverson, John Bahr, James P. Hyde, Henry Lenth and E. C. Fitzpatrick are the councilmen. The city is progressive and owns a fine system of waterworks, keeps its streets well cleaned and oiled and is preparing to pave in the near future. There is a gas plant incorporated in 1906 of which Ross Richardson is manager and an electric light plant, the latter owned by Schmidt Bros. The county offices bring much business to the town and make it the meeting place for all the people of the county. All lines of retail business are well represented, a fine opera house and an excellent moving picture theatre. It has one garage, as fine and complete as any in the state and another is to be built during the coming year. The business houses are of brick or stone and are most substantial. The stone arch bridge and the Catholic church are among the finest pieces of architecture in Iowa, while the great stone mill rises impressively above the rock-lined walls of the river, and the massive concrete dam is not only useful but picturesque and affords fine boating above and excellent fishing below.

The schools are Elkader's special pride and they are among the finest in the state for a town of the size, the high school being included in the list of the most select of Iowa. The school buildings are substantial and adequate. Not only is there a regular high school course but special departments for manual training, domestic science and com-

mercial and stenographic studies. The present system was established in 1873, prior to which there were grade schools only. Since 1873 the superintendents have been James Thompson, S. N. Bixby, P. W. McClelland, J. F. Thompson, J. E. Webb, C. J. Blymer, Robert Reinow, A. E. Stuelke, Otto S. von Krog and J. P. Street.

The press is represented by three strong weekly papers, all of which have great influence throughout the county. The oldest is the Nord Iowa Herold, established by Joseph Eiboeck in 1868. It was the first German newspaper in Iowa north of Dubuque. The present venerable and capable editor is Carl Reinecke and the paper is now printed both in German and English. It is democratic in politics. The Register and Argus was established in 1878 by George H. Otis, as the Register, the Argus being absorbed later. This paper has also, from time to time absorbed other papers throughout the county. The firm name is D. G. Griffith & Son, although the senior member of the firm is dead and the "Son" continues the business and maintains the high standard and efficiency of the paper. This office boasts the only monotype in the county and its other equipment, together with contemplated improvements, will make it rank as one of the best printing offices in northern Iowa. The Clayton County Democrat was established in 1893 by the present editor, H. C. Bishop. Mr. Bishop is a forceful editorial writer and brings to his successful newspaper work his experience both as county superintendent and state senator.

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Was organized March 12, 1855, with the following charter members: William and Philedin Keys and Mrs. Channey, E. V., Mary, H. and Harriett H. Carter. What was long known as the "round church" was built in 1857 at a cost of \$2,000, but later the membership became so reduced in numbers that the building was sold to the Universalists for \$1,500. Rev. J. G. Hill of Garnavillo was the first Congregational preacher to hold regular services at Elkader, and Rev. L. P. Mathews was the first regular preacher.

Mrs. Mary Carter donated a lot for the purpose of a church building and a foundation was laid, but the work later abandoned. For a number of years there was no church organization, although the Sunday school was maintained, as a union school, during this period. In 1894 Rev. B. Y. Childs came as a missionary and through his zeal the church was re-organized. At this time Mrs. Mary Carter was the only surviving charter member of the first organization. The society was re-incorporated, January 22, 1895, with 15 charter members. The trustees were H. H. Barnard, J. M. Branch, Mrs. Jack, John Everall, Jr., and H. W. Wilke. A lot was purchased for \$350, in April, 1896, and a church building commenced which was completed and dedicated June 20, 1897, during the pastorate of Rev. Franklin L. Fisk. The following is the list of pastors: Reverends B. V. Childs, 1894; F. L. Fisk, 1894-9; G. M. Baxter, 1899-1905; A. S. Hock, 1906-7; J. G. Dickey, 1907-9; M. L. Stimson, 1909-11; R. G. Hodden, 1911-14; Isaac Cassell, present pastor.

The church has received the following gifts: in 1898 the pipe

organ displayed at the Omaha exposition was purchased by F. D. Bayless, for \$800 and presented to the church; in the same year Mrs. Caroline Hetrick donated the parsonage and the lots upon which it stands, these being valued at \$2,000. In 1909, Mrs. Ella Merritt and Mrs. Mary Jane Williams, daughters of Isaac Havens, gave the church bell, costing \$175. The value of the church property is \$9,000. The church has the following societies: ladies' guild, Mrs. W. H. Wilke, president; Missionary Society, Mrs. A. J. Carpenter, president; Christian Endeavor, Viola Moran, president; Junior Endeavor, Miss Mae Gifford, superintendent, and Sunday school, J. F. Becker, superintendent, with average attendance of 129. The church has twice entertained the Northwestern Association of Congregational Churches, of which it is a member. It is in excellent condition both spiritually and materially and looks forward to great accomplishments.

#### EVANGELICAL FRIEDEN'S CHURCH

Was organized December 31, 1905, by Rev. F. Leonhard. Charter members: H. S. Wilke, pres., Henry Storbeck, H. C. Katschowsky, J. G. Hagensick, Henry Dohrer, John Uecker, Henry Freitag, W. E. Witt, Franz Lembke, J. C. Stemmer, J. Kuehl, Jacob Eggimann, August Uecker, E. Meisner, M. Dittmer, F. L. Hockhaus, Henry Leuth, Wm. Hagensick, Maria Alitz, Mina Feldman and Carl Mecklenburg. In 1906 the M. E. church was purchased and in 1908 Rev. F. Leonhard was forced to resign on account of ill health. He was succeeded by Rev. C. H. Franke, July 16, 1908. In this year a parsonage was erected and in 1909 an adjoining building was purchased for a school house. The value of the church property is \$10,000, and is free of debt. Morning services are conducted in the German language and evening services in English. The church roll includes seventy-eight active members. A valuable aid in the church work is Frauen-Verein, organized May 20, 1906. Mrs. Elizabeth Stemmer, who died October 8, 1909, was the first president. Through their efforts they have raised \$5,988.02, of which \$4,656.12 has been expended for church purposes. The present membership is 126. There is also a young people's society of 50 members of which Miss Vina Katschkowsky is president. The Sunday school has an enrollment of 100, the pastor being the superintendent. There is also an excellent choir.

#### MASONIC ORDER

Elkader Lodge No. 72, A. F. and A. M. was organized under a dispensation granted by the Grand Master of the M. M. Grand Lodge of Iowa, June 8, 1855, to J. W. Libby, John Williamson, E. G. Rolf, John Downie, James Dickson, Isaac Havens and E. B. Stockton. The first regular meeting was held June 16, 1855. The first officers were J. W. Libby, W. M.; John Williamson, S. W.; E. G. Rolf, J. W.; Isaac Havens, treasurer; E. B. Stockton, secretary; Dan Lawrence, S. D.; James Dickson, J. D. The lodge was chartered June 5, 1886. Within a year the membership had increased to 24. The lodge built a third story on a building erected by E. G. Rolf, in 1856, occupying this until



1874, when it leased the third story of the building occupied by H. W. and G. H. Wilke. The first death of a member was that of Capt. Alvah Bevens, who was killed at the battle of Pea Ridge. On account of internal dissention the lodge suffered a loss of twenty-one members between 1873 and 1881. September 7, the lodge room on the third story of the Elkader bank building was occupied and these fine rooms are now the lodge home. In May, 1905, the lodge celebrated its semi-centennial. One hundred and forty Masons attended and every lodge in the county was represented. At the date of the semi-centennial the membership was 79 and the present membership is 88. The total number on its rolls from organization is 391. Those who have acted as presiding officers since the organization of the lodge are, in order, as follows: J. W. Libby, John Williamson, A. D. Cook, D. R. Mills, R. C. Place, Joseph Eiboek, P. C. Young, B. S. Whitney, Edward Weck, H. S. Merritt, J. F. Thompson, F. H. Carter, Adna Hall, H. C. Stearns, H. C. Ehrlich, T. M. Davidson, S. V. Jack, H. Meyer, J. F. Becker, A. C. Hagensick, John Everall, A. J. Carpenter, H. D. Brown, William E. Witt, Henry C. Gmelin, and H. D. Brown. Anton Kramer has been treasurer for more than thirty years and J. H. Hill secretary since 1894. Since the semi-centennial the three surviving charter members have died. They were O. F. Davis, died November 22, 1908; Isaac Havens, died December 20, 1906; J. W. Libby, the last survivor and the first presiding officer, died July 3, 1915. The lodge is strong financially and its roll has always included many of Elkader's best citizens.

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Elisha Boardman Post No. 184, received its charter from J. B. Cooke, department commander, June 25, 1883. The charter members were J. M. Leach, C. H. Stearns, T. M. Davidson, D. G. Griffith, T. G. Price, George Wolf, Charles H. Robbins, Thomas Boots, O. F. Davis, James Boots, Edwin W. Stanton and Charles Hartman. Since its organization there have been 66 members. The post has done much to keep alive the memories of the war, to aid comrades with sympathy and with material aid where needed, and to accord due military honors to those whom death has called from the ranks. T. M. Davidson is the commander of the post which was named in honor of Captain Elisha Boardman of Elkader, and J. H. Hill is adjutant.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

Mystic Camp was instituted at Elkader by Deputy Head Counsel W. H. VonGusko, March 22, 1887. The first officers were venerable counsel, Charles Reugnitz; adviser, D. D. Donnan; banker, H. Meyers; clerk, J. H. Hill; escort, G. A. Fairfield; watchman, Thomas Christensen; physician, P. F. Hall; sentry, W. W. Beers; trustees, Joseph Lamm, John Everall and D. G. Griffith. The camp grew rapidly in membership and soon leased quarters in Odd Fellows hall. The first death in the order was that of J. N. Strader.

In 1888 the Masonic hall was leased. The lodge is now in a flour-

ishing condition and has been of great aid to its members. G. G. Cassidy is V. C. and W. W. Davidson, clerk.

#### THE ELKADER AUTO CLUB

Was organized December 28, 1911, with the following officers: W. W. Davidson, President; E. W. Kregel, Vice President; W. C. Reimer, Secretary and Treasurer. The object of the organization is to encourage the building of better roads, putting up sign boards, and also the fixing of the Smith hill about two miles out of Elkader.

#### P. E. O. ELKADER

Chapter B. L. of Elkader, Ia., was organized January 23, 1901, at the home of J. R. Bayless, with the following charter members, each holding office as follows: Mrs. Mary Baxter, President; Mrs. Nellie Perry Price, Vice President; Mrs. May Leigh, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Stella Corlett, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Emma Gossman, Chaplain; Mrs. Gussie Bayless, Treasurer; Mrs. Anna Paul Wilke, Guard; Mrs. Minnie Meyer, Journalist.

Meetings are held every alternate Friday at the homes of the members. Chapter B. L. has lost by death two members, Mrs. Gussie Bayless and Mrs. Jessie Morse Beyer. Mrs. Nellie Perry Price held the office of State Recording Secretary of the Iowa Grand Chapter during the years of 1906 and 1907, and one of the charter members, Mrs. Emma Gossman, is now State President of the Minnesota Grand Chapter. Besides contributing to the National enterprise the educational fund of the order, the society has assisted various local enterprises such as the school library, the band, etc.; and it has also sent flowers to the sick and Christmas baskets to the needy. It also contributed annually to the Travelers' Aid.

#### BROTHERHOOD AMERICAN YEOMAN

The Elkader Homestead No. 269 was organized on the 28th day of February, 1899, and charter granted on that date. There were twenty-eight charter members. The first officers were: Foreman, Wm. E. Witt; Correspondent, Alfred L. Barthel; Master of Ceremonies, Marvin Cook; Master of Accounts, John G. Hagensick; Overseer, Fred Cook; Chaplain, Aug. Uecker; Lady Rowena, Mary A. Griffith; Lady Rebecca, Charlotte Hagensick. The number of benefit members is 169, insurance in force nearly \$200,000, annual mortuary fund \$2,200, annual general fund \$180.00. The present officers are: Foreman, Ben F. Falkenhainer; Correspondent, W. H. O'Brien. The deceased members are: Fred Cook, former sheriff and charter member; Prof. Alfred L. Barthel, charter member; Jennie M. Toutsch, Mildred Switzer, Mrs. J. C. Stemmer, D. G. Griffith, charter member; Isabella Hulverson, Ernest E. Wagner, Mary E. Kramer, Matie Landon, G. H. Schulte, Martin Dittmer, John Uecker, charter member.

## CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS

The St. Joseph's Court No. 424 was organized April 30, 1894, with 30 charter members.

The first officers were: D. D. Murphy, Chief Ranger; F. A. Neimeyer, Vice Chief Ranger; M. Fitzpatrick, Recording Secretary; M. P. Dunn, Financial Secretary; J. K. Molumby, Treasurer. The trustees were: T. H. Donlon, F. J. Uriell, and D. E. Gleason.

The present officers are: E. C. Fitzpatrick, Chief Ranger; J. J. Finnegan, Recording Secretary. The present number of members is 90, meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Joseph's Hall. The deceased members are: William Roach, Daniel Maher, Thomas Mulligan, and Matthew Fitzpatrick, who was a charter member.

## WOMEN'S COURT OF FORESTERS

St. Joseph's Court, No. 108, was organized March 17, 1897, by Deputy Mary R. Cain of Waukon, Iowa. The first officers were C. R., Mary Dunn; V. C. R., Margaret Dunn; R. S., Hannah Quinn; F. S., Mary Molumby; Treasurer, Mary Uriell; Trustees, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Maggie Dunn, Katie Quinn; S. C., Bridget Dunn; J. C., Lizzie Meyer; J. S., Mary Thyne; Med. Ex., Dr. W. J. McGrath. In 1900 there were but 25 members but after this time the order grew rapidly and the membership is now 100. Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at St. Joseph's Hall and the court is one of the leading social and charitable organizations of Elkader. Through their own efforts, in two years they fitted the old church into one of the most beautiful halls in the state at an expense of \$2,700, the committee in charge being Margaret McLaughlin, Kate Regan, Margaret Liddy, Celia Kelleher and Calista Humphrey.

The attention of the court is now turned toward beautifying the Catholic cemetery, water works will be installed, rock driveways and a handsome fence. Work has been commenced on the building of a mortuary chapel in memory of the three priests buried in the cemetery, Fathers O'Bern, O'Shay and Quigley. The committee in charge is Margaret Canada, president; Margaret Roach, secretary; Mary Uriell, treasurer, and Hannah Kossuth, Kate Downey, Emma Thillen, Mayme Geraghty, Mayme McGee and Kate Kelleher. Anne Kelleher is the present head of the court. The deceased members are: Katie Mahr, Sara E. Dunn, Rose Downey, Amelia Siebretz, Margaret G. Allen, Mary Molumby, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Sara O'Leary and Mrs. Joseph Cassutt.

## REBEKAH LODGE

The Hazel Valley Rebekah Lodge No. 466, was organized March 2, 1906. It was instituted by Grand Master G. L. Snyder of Marion, Iowa, assisted by Robert Quigley, and Miss Iola Quigley, district deputy president, both of Pocket City Rebekah Lodge of McGregor, Iowa, and Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Lake, of Coral Rebekah Lodge No. 150, Whitehall, Wis. There was twenty-seven charter members. The first officers were: Noble Grand, Miss Maud I. Tyler; Vice Grand, Miss



Florence Nichols, Secretary, Mrs. Bertha Grube, Treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte Hagensick.

The present officers are: Noble Grand, Miss Ella Crowe; Secretary, Mrs. Maud Tyler Anderson. The membership is 26, and meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, at the I. O. O. F. hall. The deceased members are: Melissa Cooper, charter member; Rachel Partch, charter member; E. C. Gifford, Hannah Hadrich Scheer.

#### THE ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

The Order of Eastern Star of Elkader, Iowa, was organized on the 27th day of February, 1894, and on October 4th, 1894, their charter was granted, with 23 charter members.

The first officers were: Stella Corlett, D. G. Griffith, Worthy Matrons; Associate Matron, Mrs. Emma Gossman; Secretary, Mattie Everall; Treasurer, Mary Griffith; Conductress, Caroline Becker; Chaplain, Elizabeth M. Paul; Adah, Minnie Meyer; Ruth, Grace Jack; Esther, Ella Lamm; Martha, Mrs. S. F. Leach; Electa, Clara Cook; Warder, Lizzie Stemmer; Sentinel, Elizabeth Stanton. The chapter meets first Wednesday of each month at the Masonic Hall; membership 127.

The present officers are: Worthy Matron, Louise Leibrock; Secretary, Lizzie Leibrock. The deceased members are: Fred Cook, D. G. Griffith, Joseph Lamm, Lizzie Stemmer, Lillie Smith, Elizabeth Leibrock, Mate Landon, Jane Munger, Mollie Becker, G. H. Schulte, A. L. Barthel, Dr. Alice Carpenter, Lena Talley and Martin Dittmer.

#### COTERIE CLUB

Was organized in 1898, with 42 charter members. The first officers were Ella Ford, president; Jessie Blake-Goetz, vice president; Kathryn Kramer-Bradley, secretary; Caroline Becker, treasurer; Inez Ford, reporter. Ella Wilke is the present president and Lulu Murphy, secretary. Meetings are on alternate Tuesday evenings, from September until June, at the homes of the members. In 1901 the club affiliated with the State Federation of Clubs. The club is interested in literary and benevolent work, has handled a traveling library for two years and has had lecture courses for four years, and has been active in other work. The tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the club were celebrated with banquets. Deceased members are Dr. Alice Carpenter and Mollie Schmidt-Becker. Charter members holding continuous membership are Nelly Perry Price, Anna Paul Wilke, Ella Wilke, Caroline Becker and Elizabeth Leibrock.

#### ELKPORT

Elkport was laid out in 1855 by Frederick Hartge. The town was named after Elk creek which empties into the Turkey river at this place. The first house was built by Frederick Hartge and the first store was kept by John Garber. The post office was established in 1852 with John Garber as postmaster. The post office at East Elkport was

established in 1878 and John Garber was also its first postmaster. Elkport was incorporated in 1895 and the first officers were: Mayor, Michael Costigan; Clerk, Geo. Kriebs; Councilmen, J. C. Beck, Peter Flaherty and F. J. Zapf. In 1909 there was considerable rivalry between Elkport and East Elkport, or Garber. Elkport was a village before the coming of the railroad and the station was located outside the incorporated limit. Later East Elkport was laid out and its name changed to Garber. This new town included the station and when the name was changed its people appealed to the railway commission to have the name of the station changed also. Elkport people objected to this, claiming that they furnished much the larger share of the business and were entitled to have the station called Elkport. The commission decided that inasmuch as the station lay within the limits of Garber, it must be called by that name, but that Elkport had the perfect right to maintain its identity under the old name. Garber is now a village of 126 inhabitants and Elkport of 212. The combined population being but ten greater than that of Elkport in 1900. The present mayor of Elkport is Louis Bentschneider and the clerk, Delbert Morley. Councilmen are S. White, John Balls, John Wittman, Peter Bahr, and Henry Plagman. The electric plant has been owned by Wm. Rutledge, but this has been sold to Schmidt Brothers of Elkader and it is expected that the lighting systems of Elkport and Garber will soon be added to the system with current supplied from Elkader. The first school house was built in 1854. This was succeeded in 1868 by a stone building and in 1895 by a fine brick structure costing \$5,000. It is said to be one of the best schools of the state for a town of its size. There are four rooms and Prof. Richard Vermilya is superintendent and Dr. G. M. Thein is president of the Board. The postmaster is Asa G. Kriebs. There are three fraternities, Odd Fellows, Modern Brotherhood, and Modern Woodmen of America; two general stores, garage, and an excellent opera house owned by a company of citizens. There are two churches, the Lutheran, of which Rev. Paulsen is pastor, and Catholic, in charge of Rev. Father Minogue.

Garber, located just across the river, has a bank and good stores, but depends upon Elkport for its church and fraternal life. The mayor is H. H. Musfelt; Clerk, A. J. Schnepf; Councilmen, G. W. Hammen, August Fritz, C. Schnepf, B. A. Voss and A. M. Zapf. L. A. Zearley is postmaster.

### FARMERSBURG

Farmersburg is a busy up-to-date little town of some 300 inhabitants, located on the Elkader branch of the Milwaukee railroad about midway between Beulah and Elkader. The pride of the city is in its opera house which was dedicated July 2, 1910, D. D. Murphy being the orator; and the modern and substantial school house which was erected in 1914. The earlier history of Farmersburg has been given in preceding chapters. The present mayor is W. F. Fueling; clerk, Arnold Oelke; councilmen, John Sabbann, Henry Vullgraf, Henry Oelke, Jr., Otto Fueling, and E. C. Oelke. There is an electric light plant; the school building is of brick and cost \$12,000, has five rooms and a basement. M. B. Merriman is the superintendent; Ernest Haltmyer, pres-

ident of the Board, and W. Q. Adams, secretary. There are courses in Domestic Science and Manual Training. The opera house cost \$3,000 and was built by the citizens in conjunction with the Masonic Lodge. There are three general stores, bank, hotel, elevator and lumber yards, and the usual retail lines are well represented. The Methodists maintain a church organization.

#### LUTHERAN CHURCH

This strong church organization was organized May 19, 1900. Henry Oelke, Chas. Hinsch, Albert Fueling, F. Klinge, J. Sabbann, R. Scherf and H. Englehart were charter members. For ten years the congregation used the Methodist church, but in 1910 a frame building costing \$6,000 was erected. A parsonage costing \$1,600 had already been built. Rev. G. F. Braun was the first pastor from 1900 to 1906. Succeeding pastors were Reverends H. Weise, N. Gadow, E. Pett, Theo. Guetztaffer, and the present pastor is G. F. Braun. An excellent parochial school is maintained and there are 48 families in the congregation. The church property is free from debt. There is a Ladies' Aid society of which Mrs. Henry Klinge is president. Ernest Fueling is the president of the congregation.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

Cedar Camp, No. 3246, was chartered Sept. 26, 1895, with 15 charter members. The first officers elected Dec. 28, 1895, were A. L. Chase, V. C.; Gottlieb Zurcher, W. A.; C. F. Meier, clerk; J. T. Adams, assistant clerk; Ed Matthew, banker; C. L. Knight, escort; C. W. Oelke, watchman; J. F. Mertens, sentry; J. W. Miller and L. L. Renshaw, physicians; Aug. Kluss, manager. Deceased members are S. J. Corlett, Wm. Dahlstrom, James Church and Aug. Kluss. The camp has 39 members and the present executives are E. Haltmeyer, V. C., and John Sabbann, clerk.

#### MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA

Charity Lodge, No. 142, organized April 16, 1909, has a membership of 29. The present executives are H. D. Hinsch, president, and John Sabbann, secretary. This lodge had a membership of 60 when organized, but on account of a raise in the rates it has lost many members.

#### MASONIC ORDER

National Lodge, No. 172, A. F. and A. M., of Farmersburg was chartered June 7, 1865. The first officers were Thos. D. White, W. M.; Cyrus F. Hall, S. W.; M. A. Knight, J. W.; Chas. Watkins, secretary; M. Slaughter, treasurer. The lodge was first instituted at National and moved to Farmersburg July 10, 1889. The lodge is in a flourishing condition financially and otherwise and has fifty-one members. Otto F. Fueling is now worthy master and W. Q. Adams is the secretary, an office which he has held for twenty-nine years.



## ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

Palm Leaf Camp, No. 3198, was instituted September 2, 1902, by Deputy Supreme Oracle Eller. The first officers were Oracle, Claudie Meier; Vice-Oracle, Cella Mathews; Recorder, Marie Sherman; Chancellor, Clara Dandenburger; Marshal, Louis Brownson. Since its organization it has lost three members: Rica Possehl, Marine Sherman and Hattie Kishman, by death. The lodge holds its meetings in the Masonic Hall the first and third Tuesdays of each month and has a membership of twenty-one. The present Oracle is Mrs. Mina Dahlstrom and the recorder Ina Mathews.

## GARNAVILLO

All of the towns of Clayton county progressed in wealth and importance during the early years of the twentieth century even if some of them did not gain in population. It would be monotonous to give a list of the improvements or to try to follow, step by step, the gradual processes by which they have grown to the thriving condition in which they are today. All that can be done is to give an outline of some of the greater events and the mile stones of their progress. Garnavillo busied itself, in 1901, with plans for an electric line from Andros Hollow down Brush creek to Eckardt's Siding. A meeting was held and \$75,000 in stock was subscribed. The project languished but was revived in 1907, when there were great hopes that the Dan Patch line would pass through Garnavillo. The line was surveyed and in October the business men gave a banquet to the surveyors, Mr. J. O. Crosby making an address of welcome. It was believed that this line was certain to go through and the proposed route was from Garnavillo to Colesburg via East and West Elkport. The panic of 1907 ended all hope of railroad building throughout the country and the plan was not again taken up. Garnavillo has continued to prosper, however, and it has today stores which would do credit to a city of very much larger size. In 1904, the Garnavillo Savings Bank was added with W. F. Meyer, president, and Henry Dettmer, cashier. An attempt was made to run a newspaper and the Independent was established, but discontinued publication in 1908, and was merged with the Register and Argus of Elkader. The electric franchise was voted to Schmidt Bros. & Co. at Elkader and Garnavillo now enjoys the use of electricity.

H. H. Kuhlman is mayor of the thriving little city and H. C. Kuenzel, clerk. The financial condition is good, and the school system is excellent. The Garnavillo Tribune was established in 1910 and is an excellent local paper with good advertising patronage, edited by R. O. Schumacher. Among the churches and lodges are the following:

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Paul's Lutheran church at Garnavillo was founded in 1852, at which time a number of German pioneers gather to organize a church. The first elders of the church were J. G. Kregel and Casper Backhaus.

The first trustees were John G. Heye, Christian Haukammer and H. Schumacher. The material for the church was hewn from the forest of the Turkey and the Volga rivers. At first the congregation had to be satisfied with the chance ministrations of Methodist itinerants, but a pastor was soon secured in the person of H. Mueller. In 1854, the first parsonage was erected. The following is the list of pastors and their term of service: H. Mueller, 1853-1856; P. Stockfelt, 1856-59; Theodore Klingsore, January to May, 1859; B. Klein, 1859-62; Fr. Rentsch, 1862-68; H. Hermann, 1869-70; J. B. Erbens, 1870-77; U. Thomas, April to September, 1877; B. Starke, 1877-80; Fuerchtenicht, 1880-82; F. Sommerlad, 1882-90; Dickoff, 1890-92; F. Sommerlad, 1892-1902; K. W. Braun, 1902 to date.

In 1878, the church was destroyed by fire and the congregation made immediate efforts to rebuild and this was done at once. Rev. Frank Sommerlad was pastor of the church for twenty years, with the exception of two years during which he was allowed leave of absence. He was succeeded by the present pastor, K. W. Braun, in 1902. The church is highly prosperous and has a large and devoted membership. Aside from the church there is a commodious parsonage and parochial school.

St. Peter's Lutheran church also has a strong membership and St. Joseph's Catholic church is treated of in another chapter.

#### ODD FELLOWS

The Garnavillo Lodge No. 29, I. O. O. F., was organized the 25th day of December, 1850, the petitioners being Benjamin F. Fox, Ezra Hurd, Gilbert Douglass, Frank Smith, Thomas G. Drips, Allen Mullenix and E. P. Atkins. The charter was granted on the 27th day of October, 1852, and up to that the time the members that were admitted by initiation were: David G. Rogers, H. S. Granger, B. B. Hammond, Dr. Frederick Andros, Dr. John Linton, O. F. Stevens, James Preece, Franklin Emerson, Joseph K. Reed, Joseph Drips, Alvah C. Rogers, Alex Falconer, Judge Reuben Noble, S. M. Swain, C. G. Hayward, Abner Decen, E. W. Aldrich, John O. Porter, Evan Linton, Isaac Depew, E. Douglass, W. H. Baker, H. K. Averill, W. R. Miller, Lafayette Bigelow, H. D. Evans, Robert L. Freeman, L. Pickle, John Orr, S. L. Peck, G. W. Stephenson, and Captain Andrew W. Drips, making forty charter members in all.

The lodge has two hundred names enrolled on the list of members who signed the constitution, among them many who were well known and prominent in the early days of Clayton county, men like Captain R. Read, after whom Read township was named; Judge Reuben Noble, Captain Andrew W. Drips, killed in the battle of Pea Ridge, and who was postmaster at Garnavillo before the war; Thos. G. Drips, former sheriff of Clayton county; Dr. Frederick Andros, John W. Gillett, Dr. John Linton and many others. The lodge has a hall of its own and regular meetings are held every Saturday evening. At present the membership numbers thirty, and their officers are: N. G., Adam C. Oelfke; V. G., Chris F. Kregel; Recording Secretary, Wm. A. Kregel;

Treasurer, J. Fred Schumacher; W., T. J. Krasinsky; I. G., Albert Peterson.

Garnavillo Lodge No. 29, I. O. O. F., is the oldest fraternal organization in Clayton county, Iowa, and its first officers were: N. G., Thomas G. Drips; V. G., Frank Smith; Recording Secretary, Benjamin F. Fox; Treasurer, Ezra Hurd; W. Allen; I. G., E. P. Atkins. The deceased members are: B. F. Fox, R. R. Read, L. W. Buhlman, R. C. Drips, H. L. Scheutte, J. A. Ready, D. B. Dawson, Peter Manrer, J. M. Hagensick, Harrison G. Smart, Christian Roper, George Sigg, William Kreuger, E. Ruchdashel, John Linton, James McGuire, Sr., Wm. Ahlers, Fred Cook, Jacob D. Maurer, I. C. Cammock, Otto Brumm, G. Henry Schulte, Henry Bothmer and Helmuth Brandt.

#### GARNAVILLO LODGE NO. 90 A. F. & A. M.

Garnavillo Lodge No. 90 A. F. & A. M. was organized by dispensation on the 25th day of May, 1855, and the first officers were: W. M., Elijah Odell; S. W., John M. Alton; J. W., Israel McWilliams; Secretary, John H. Dunkin; S. D., B. F. Forbes; J. D., Andrew W. Drips; Tyler, George S. Renshaw. The above named seven Masons were the petitioners for a dispensation, to open the first Masonic lodge held at Garnavillo, and the first meeting, as aforesaid, was held on the 25th day of May, 1885, and in June the next year, the by-laws were adopted and a charter was granted to Garnavillo Lodge No. 90 A. F. & A. M.

The charter members were: Elijah Odell, Benjamin F. Forbes, George S. Renshaw, Andrew W. Drips, Israel McWilliams, John M. Alton, John J. Dunkin, Benjamin F. Fox, Ezra Hurd, S. R. Scott, Thomas Updegraf, Reuben Noble, J. L. Hagensick, H. C. Oelkers, and John H. Nietert. The Worshipful Masters from the time of organization to the present time are: Elijah Odell, Reuben Noble, Thomas Updegraf, J. H. Nietert, David G. Rogers, Alvah C. Rogers, George W. Beach, and Benjamin F. Fox, Harrison G. Smart, James McGuire, Sr., Fred Cook, Jacob D. Maurer, C. W. Duffin, William A. Kregel, Dr. Arthur A. Schmidt, Henry P. Kreuger, Realto O. Schumacher. The time of regular meeting is every Tuesday, on or before full moon, and the present membership numbers thirty-two. The present officers are: W. M., R. O. Schumacher; S. W., H. H. Kuhlman; J. W., H. P. Krueger; Treasurer, J. F. Schumacher; Secretary, Wm. A. Kregel; S. D., H. H. Baumer; J. D., V. C. Schumacher, and Tyler, H. W. Fritz. There are thirty-three deceased members.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

Cotton Camp No. 3004 was organized on the third day of May, 1895, with fourteen charter members. The following officers were elected: V. C., Dr. A. A. Schmidt; W. A., H. Luehsen, Jr.; Ex Banker, H. Limbach; Clerk, Glendor Brandt; Esc, C. F. Kregel; Watch, Albert Wagner; Sentry, Chas. Rantzow; Camp Physician, Dr. A. A. Schmidt; Managers, J. E. Fritz, Chas. Hedeman, and Louis Hevill.



## REBEKAHS

Josephine Rebekah Lodge No. 7, was organized at Garnavillo on the 13th day of February, 1869, with the following charter members: James Schroeder, Jenny Schroeder, Henry Huntemann, Anna Huntemann, B. Boder, Elizabeth Boder, Gus Beutel, Charlotte Beutel, W. Brumm, John Pohlman, C. Pohlman, C. Swalter and D. Swalter. The first officers were. James Schroeder, Noble Grand; Vice Grand, Sophie Behm; Secretary, Davis Walter; Treasurer, Katherine Frey, and the present members are: Noble Grand, Helen Behrens; Vice Grand, Edna Scholz; Secretary, Selma Class; Treasurer, Clara Friedlein.

The meeting of Josephine Rebekah Lodge is in the Odd Fellow Hall, every first and third Tuesday of the month. For many years the lodge work was conducted in the German language. The present membership is thirty-six.

## GARNAVILLO SOCIAL TURN VEREIN

The Garnavillo Social Turn Verein was organized on the 23rd day of August, 1869, with the following charter members: Peter Maurer, Henry Schumacher, Helmuth Brandt, Diedrich Schroeder, J. H. Kuenzel, John D. Meyer, Wm. Ahlers, Wm. Kuhlman, Joseph Limbach and Fritz Walter, U. U. Stratemeyer, William Logier, Fritz Harberg, Adam Brauer, G. U. Stratemeyer, Fritz Schoelerman, Sr., U. L. Schutte, Wm. Harberg, John Marberg, Henry Oelke, Louis Meyer, and Stephen Wenschal. The first officers were: President, Dr. Wm. Logier; Vice President, Peter Maurer; Secretary, Helmuth Brandt; Treasurer, Wm. Ahlers. Their meetings are held the second Monday of each month in their own hall.

## GIARD

Named after the owner of the first Spanish grant, Giard was at one time an important stopping place on the overland route to McGregor. In those earlier days when the great military road was filled with an endless procession of immigrants moving westward and heavily laden ox teams bringing the wheat from the interior, places of rest and refreshment were necessary every few miles, for the ox, though powerful, travels at a snail's pace. Giard was the first stopping place on this great highway and it did a good business for many years. The railroad changed all of this, and on account of the grade, it was found impossible to go through Giard, and the once busy town is now but a pleasant settlement where the homes of prosperous farmers nestle about the church which has for many years been the center of the community's life.

The Giard German Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the oldest institutions in the county, having been organized by Rev. John Mann of Sherrill, Iowa, in 1848. Among the charter and pioneer members were Daniel Bickel and wife, Adam Berg and wife, Henry Hellwig and wife, Conrad Hellwig, Henry Froelich and wife, Conrad Hartwick, Herman Schneider, John Bernhard, John Hartwick,

William Allart and Geo. Wickersheim. The first church was built during the pastorate of Rev. Frederick Heinz. It was a very modest frame structure located on the Elkader road about one mile southwest of Giard. This was replaced later by another frame structure of larger proportions. The present handsome brick church was built in 1902 and the congregation also owns a handsome and commodious parsonage. The present pastor is Rev. A. W. Gauger. Both English and German are used in the services and the church is in a thriving condition in every way.

### GUTTENBERG

In 1900, Guttenberg voted an electric light franchise but this was allowed to default and it was proposed that the city would use gas. Guttenberg was organized under a special charter just as were many of the cities of the early day. Later legislation, however, gave cities regularly organized greater advantages than were held by the cities of the special charter and in 1902, Guttenberg abandoned its old charter and became as other Iowa cities. As a result of municipal controversies a second newspaper was established at Guttenberg in 1903, with S. L. Gage as editor. This was, however, but a short lived affair. It was sought to improve the channel of the Mississippi at Guttenberg but Glen Haven on the Wisconsin side objected to the closing of the channel and Senator Allison, for Iowa, and Senator Spooner for Wisconsin argued the case at length on the floor of the U. S. Senate. A frightful accident occurred in November, 1905, when J. Baumgaertner and Ben Walter were killed by the bursting of a boiler at the flour mill, the mill being totally wrecked. Guttenberg was wonderfully immune from the major accidents or fires, the only fires of importance being the one which occurred in September, 1900, when the hotel, which was crowded with guests, was burned. Fortunately no lives were lost, although there were many narrow escapes; and the fires in September, 1913, when the planing mill of the Meuser Lumber Company was destroyed with no insurance. Guttenberg benefited by the pearl button industry almost as much as did McGregor and a successful factory was established. The excelsior factory started by citizens was also a success. Guttenberg has always been a conservative community but with all its quietness it has steadily maintained itself and is today the largest town in Clayton county and one of the wealthiest.

Guttenberg is a remarkable town. It retains the traditions of the old and grasps the advantages of the new. In many ways it reminds one of a village of the Fatherland, but in the midst of the quaint old buildings one is startled by all the evidences of modernity. The river front is beautiful. There is no finer in all Iowa. The view from the bluffs as the road rises steeply is one of superb beauty. The town itself is a perfect picture of quiet content and widespread prosperity mingled with the spirit of nervous American activity.

The present officers of the city are mayor, Robert Scholz; clerk, Henry Beermann; councilmen, M. Gilbertz, L. H. Beermann, Chris Frommelt, A. O. Hamann, Carl Ohm. The city has an excellent system of water works with high pressure. A contract has been entered

into with Schmidt Bros. of Elkader for electric power. For this the city pays at the rate of two and one-half cents per kilowatt, charging twelve cents to consumers, leaving a handsome margin of profit which will go to the city. Two button factories employ between one hundred and fifty to two hundred people. A canning factory employs many during the corn packing season. The excelsior factory normally employs from fifteen to twenty people. The Ed. P. Eberhart Lumber Company operates a sawmill for hardwood and Mueser Lumber Company has a planing mill of good capacity. The city has a building of its own for its administrative offices and there is an efficient volunteer fire company with M. Gilbertz as chief. There are two large brick school buildings, a high school whose graduates are admitted to the University of Iowa without examination. Special courses are given in Domestic Science, Agriculture and Manual Training. There is a library of one thousand volumes. The school property is valued at \$30,000. Chas. Adam is president of the school board and E. L. Charlesworth, secretary. The schools open in September in charge of Superintendent Hoffman, who succeeds G. W. Hunt. The high standard of the school is in large measure due to D. D. Murphy who was at their head for many years.

The Guttenberg Press is an independent and readable newspaper. It was established by Sumner Miller, January 6, 1897, who sold it January 1, 1908, to Z. G. Houck. On May 15, 1911, the paper was purchased by Louis C. and Harry J. Muschewske, its present publishers. The paper is eminently successful and has a well equipped office.

Among the churches there are the Methodist Episcopal of which Rev. W. T. Smith is pastor; the Catholic church, dealt with in another chapter; and St. John's Lutheran Church. This church was organized January 1, 1854. The first officers were A. Weimer, H. Fahling, C. Niemann, J. Wehrkamp, H. Huntman, J. Dittmer and Theo Aulwes. The church was built in 1854 and Rev. Mueller of Garnavillo was the first pastor. Succeeding pastors were Reverends P. Seisting, P. C. Adams, Theo. Hushmann, P. Gessler, Wm. Beckman, P. Kleinlein, F. C. Bazil. On June 30, 1899, Rev. J. Janzig took charge and he has continued since that time doing good work among his people. The church building is modern, has pipe organ and excellent choir. The value of the church property, including parsonage, is about \$10,000.00. There is a confirmation school of seventy-five members, a Ladies' Aid Society of ninety-five members, Young People's Society and Sunday School.

The Community Club was organized November 8, 1915, and although young, it has already been a benefit to the city by creating a better feeling of coöperation and by the establishment of a rest room for visitors to the city. Dr. F. R. Cutler is president and G. W. Hunt, secretary of this club. Another excellent feature of the civic life of Guttenberg is

#### THE INGLESIDE CLUB

The Ingleside Club was organized by a number of ladies of Guttenberg in the year 1902 as a social club. In 1908 it joined the Federation of Women's Clubs and then took up literary work. In 1910 it



dropped the literary work and devoted its entire efforts to the laying out, planting and caring for the New River Front Park at Guttenberg.

The charter members were Olive Pye, Jessie Beyer, Gertrude Pohle, Lottie Ihm, Yetta Purnhage, Augusta Friedlein, Lulu Schroeder and Emma McErlain. The first president was Jessie Beyer.

Since then the club has increased its membership until there are now fifteen members. The present officers are: President, Margaret Miller; vice president, Amanda Beerman; secretary, Minnie Muschewske; treasurer, Ellen Scholz.

The club is now devoting its entire time to the development of the new river front park, which has really not been formally named. It extends a length of about three and one-half blocks along the high banks of the Mississippi river. It is beautifully laid out with gravel walks, flower beds and various kinds of shade trees. It will in time, be one of the most beautiful parks along the upper Mississippi river. The club developed this park out of a wild tract which annually grew up to weeds.

Among the lodges are the following:

#### ODD FELLOWS

Guttenberg Lodge No. 126, I. O. O. F., was founded in 1859 with seven charter members. The first meeting was held at the home of John Friedlein. The first officers were Henry Lake, N. G.; Henry Huntemann, V. G.; Leonard Heine, secretary; M. Goetz, treasurer. The other charter members were D. E. Meyers, William Woodworth and Henry Bultmann. In 1904, a handsome new building was erected, and in 1909 the lodge celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with appropriate ceremony. August Friedlein is the present Noble Grand.

#### PRAIRIE LA PORTE LODGE NO. 147, A. F. & A. M.

Prairie la Porte Lodge No. 147, A. F. & A. M. of Guttenberg, Iowa, held their first regular meeting on the thirteenth day of August, 1859. The charter members were: C. P. Goodrich, G. H. Bonomann, Charles Falkenheiner, R. M. Wilson, John Sixbey, John McBride, Frederick Eisfelder, Jonathan Kauffman, Willard Knight and Eliphalet Price. The first officers were: W. M., C. P. Goodrich; S. W., John McBride; J. W., Jonathan Kauffman; treasurer, Willard Knight; secretary, G. H. Bowman; S. D., John Sixbey; J. D., Fred Eisfelder.

The present executive officers are: W. M., Charles Scholz; S. W., Dr. F. R. Cutler. The present membership is seventy-two. Regular meetings are held every Thursday, on or before full moon, at the Masonic hall. A building fund has been established and it is hoped at some future time to be able to have a new hall.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

New Leaf Camp No. 537, was chartered March 28, 1888, and its first officers were: Consul, George H. Smart; adviser, H. J. Schirmer; clerk, William Hoffbauer, Jr.; banker, William A. Seibel; delegate, P.

H. F. Hinsch; physician, Dr. H. J. Schirmer. The charter members were: H. Eppens, P. H. F. Hinsch, William Hoffbauer, Jr., J. Kords, C. C. Niemeyer, Ed H. Prior, J. M. Prior, W. A. Seibel, E. Schrempf, George H. Smart and H. J. Schirmer and at present the total number of members is 85. The present officers are: Consul, O. E. Gray, clerk, Charles E. Scholz. Meetings are held every second and fourth Monday.

The deceased members are: John Kords, Henry Eppens, Bernard Leuch, John Rau, William Retwisch, J. S. Cassutt, George H. Smart, John Dent, Heinrich Flentje, William H. Fahling, Philip Kirch, Henry Schutte, Ernest Geuder, John Koch, Willie Friedlein, Horace G. Jenkins, August Kahle, Edward J. Madden and Herman Schroeder. The total amount that this camp has contributed to the benefit fund up to the present time is \$20,977.65, and the total amount of death claims paid to beneficiaries, \$31,000.00.

#### EASTERN STAR

Pearl Chapter No. 143 was organized on the twenty-second day of September, 1893. The first officers were: Worthy matron, Ida G. Miller; worthy patron, G. H. Smart; associate matron, Sophia Eckhart; secretary, William Nolte; treasurer, Mrs. S. J. Kauffman; conductress, Mrs. Lizzie Duffin; associate conductress, Ella Block; chaplain, Alice Harvey; Adah, Hattie Smart; Ruth, Nettie Thomason; Esther, Mrs. Emily Kennedy; Martha, Edna Kauffman; Electa, Emma Horsch; warder, Anna Frey; sentinel, John Luther. There were twenty-four charter members.

Meetings are held every Thursday evening, after full moon, at Masonic hall. There are eighty-eight members. The deceased members are: Ella Block, Matilda B. Goetz, G. H. Smart, Mrs. Emma Horsch, S. W. Bowman, Dorothy E. Penfold, Jessie Beyer. The present executive officers are: Worthy matron, Mrs. Rexy Chase; secretary, Addie Jacobs.

#### BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMEN

Valley Homestead No. 61 was organized on the twenty-third day of December, 1897, and the charter was issued on the third day of February, 1898, with twenty-one charter members.

The first officers were: Foreman, Frank J. Limbach; master of ceremonies, Charles W. Jenkins; correspondent, Robert J. Bonce; master of accounts, Sarah Jenkins; physician, John Ruthop; overseer, Bertha Bruce; watchman, Alice Jenkins; sentinel, Peter P. Tonnar. The present officers are: Foreman, Richard E. Bull; correspondent, C. Mitrucker.

There are at present one hundred benefit members and one social member, and meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the I. O. O. F. hall. The deceased members are: Henry Reyer, John Fricke, Hans Studt, Samuel Hine, William H. Heine, Bertha Deifel, Emma Horsch, Hattie E. Kords, Dr. W. L. Duffin, Har-

riet Friedlein-McKinley and H. G. Jenkins, Charlotte M. Scholz and Henry Daacke.

#### ROYAL NEIGHBORS

Golden Rule Camp No. 973 R. N. F. A., was organized on the thirtieth day of April, 1898. There were twenty-two charter members, all but six of whom were benefit members. The camp now has a membership of fifty-five members of which forty-five are beneficiary and ten are social members. The meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

The first officers were: Oracle, Hattie Smart; vice oracle, Effie Lewis; past oracle, Etta Beutel; chancellor, Harriet Friedlein; marshal, Frances Lorenz; assistant marshal, Lizzie Saeugling; recorder, Emma Rau; receiver, Louise Tuerste; inner sentinel, Hattie Kords; outer sentinel, Emma Kohle; physician, Charles Duffn. The present officers are: Oracle, Etta Beutel; recorder, Lena Tuerste. The outer sentinel, Emma Kohle, has held her office from 1898 up to the present time except two years. The deceased members are: John Dent, Hattie Schrunk, Margaret Solton, H. B. Scheutte, Ida Werb, Hattie Kords, Lottie Scholz, Harriet Friedlein, Eliza Kuempel, Horace Jenkins and Julia Needham.

#### MYSTIC WORKERS

The Mystic Workers Lodge No. 774 was organized on the fourteenth day of November, 1906, with the following charter members: William Nolte, Julia Nolte, A. F. Beyer, Karl Ihm, John P. Eckart, August H. Borman, Wilhelm Schnell, Emma Cassutt, Lizzie Cassutt, O. H. Lake, W. E. Friedlein, Thomas J. Cassutt, Calvin P. Luther, William Lindroth and John P. Stoeffler. The membership of this lodge has increased to forty-four members, and the present officers are as follows: C. W. Petters, perfect; O. H. Lake, monitor; A. H. Borman, secretary; John P. Eckart, banker; A. E. Beyer, physician; R. H. Schola, marshal; William Lindroth, sentinel; O. B. Eckart, supervisor. The meetings are held on the second and fourth Friday of every month.

#### LITTLEPORT

Littleport was incorporated November, 1907, along the line of the Volga Valley Railroad between Volga City and Elkport. The first officers were: Mayor, C. C. Pust; clerk, S. M. Stalnaker; councilmen, E. Enderes, William Reichert, E. L. Gifford, A. Keffer and Henry Pust. The town has long been established, however, and was a considerable hamlet for more than fifty years prior to its incorporation. It is now a village of more than two hundred population. There are three general stores, bank, blacksmith shop and a creamery owned by the Farmers' Co-operative Company and built in 1915. This creamery, according to the state dairy commissioner, ranks as one of the best in Iowa. The present mayor is J. C. Miller and S. M. Stalnaker is still the clerk. The independent school district was organized in 1906 and S. M. Stalnaker was the first principal, holding this position for five years. The present principal is R. Luers while Miss Louisa Luers



teaches the primary department. G. H. Meyer is the postmaster. There are two churches, Catholic and Lutheran, both of which are served from Elkport. The Frauen Verein is a society of ladies of which Mrs. E. L. Gifford is president, and Mrs. A. B. Zapp is at the head of the M. B. A. order. Other fraternities are as follows:

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

Littleport Camp No. 1723 was organized July 30, 1892, with eleven charter members. First officers were: F. J. Wagner, V. C.; Mathew Feeney, advisor; Henry Pust, banker; F. T. Pilkington, clerk; Emil Pust, escort; Ernest Enderes, watchman; Charles Peick, sentry; H. L. Gifford, F. J. Wagner and A. J. Mading, managers. C. C. Pust is now at the head of the order and J. J. Brich is clerk. The membership is seventy and deceased members are: George Scheer, George Meyer, J. J. Liedy, William Reiner, Joe Whipple and J. E. Davis.

#### ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

Fern Leaf Camp No. 1665 was organized March 16, 1889. The first officers were: Oracle, Louisa Pust; vice oracle, Laura Reichert; chancellor, Julia Nading; recorder, Caroline Pilkington; receiver, Minnie Brich; marshal, Jennie Whipple; I. sentinel, Minnie Nading; O. sentinel, Sophia Pust; managers, Joseph J. Brich, Lillian J. Meder and Bertha Krieg.

The camp is headed at present by Martha Towle, oracle, and Minnie Brich, recorder. The membership is fifty-three and there has been but one death in the lodge, that of Bertha Krieg.

#### LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutherans of Littleport have had a church organization since 1860, the first pastor having been Rev. Vollmer. At present the charge is served by Rev. Paulsen of Elkport, who holds services in Littleport every two weeks. The church has twenty-five members.

#### LUANA

Luana is a thriving little village of 175 population, located on the C. M. & St. Paul railway some five miles west of Monona, and is the most western town of the county. It early attained prominence through the large creamery interests located there, a business which is still in a prosperous condition. The city officers are as follows: Mayor, George R. Englehardt; clerk, W. J. Splies; treasurer, W. J. Mitchell; councilmen, W. Doerring, H. Rekow, C. Russell, F. Haffa and B. Overbeck.

To Luana must be given the credit for its splendid pioneering in the line of a consolidated school district, made possible under the new law. As a result a fine new school building was opened in June, 1916. It is a three-story brick building, containing sixteen rooms, with modern gymnasium, shower baths, lunch rooms and assembly room;

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ST. PATRICK'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, MONONA



while the campus of ten acres contains tennis courts, base ball grounds, swings and a cinder path for the athletes. The building cost \$35,000 and may be considered as a great experiment in advance educational work to include rural districts. Prof. H. B. Smith is in charge, and it is expected that the attendance will be at least 160. Instruction will include eight grades and a four-year high school course and there will be courses in manual training, domestic science and agriculture. The membership of the school board, which has made itself conspicuous by its advanced ideas, is as follows: President, Henry Palas; secretary, George Englehardt; treasurer, W. J. Splies; and members, Louis Englehardt, Henry Berger, Louis Schultz and H. Gruel. The school district embraces twenty-six square miles.

### MONONA

Monona is one of the thriving towns of Clayton county, situated in the northeast corner, in the center of the finest farming community in the state. It is fourteen miles from the Mississippi river, just at the top of the Mississippi river bluffs and is sometimes called the "City on the Hill." It has a population of a thousand inhabitants, a large per cent being retired farmers who have sold valuable farms nearby and have moved to town, erecting handsome modern homes in which to spend the remainder of their days in ease and comfort. It is probably true Monona possesses more beautiful private homes than any town of its size in the state. It has fine schools and churches, a beautiful public park, two hotels, two banks with a combined deposit of \$500,000.00. All lines of retail business are well represented and there is an iron foundry, two grist mills, opera house, a farmers' commission company, a union farmers' creamery company, a community club of thirty-three members, electric lights, with day and night current, gas plant, municipal water works, two telephone lines and a group of live business men and citizens that are putting forth their best efforts to make it a town one can feel proud to live in, and they are ready with a warm welcome to any who chance to come their way.

The Monona Leader was first established by that veteran newspaperman, George H. Otis, who is now the pioneer of the Clayton county press, having founded the Elkader Register in 1878. H. S. Rittenhouse, the present editor, has a well equipped office and publishes one of the strong local papers of the state.

The city officers are George H. Otis, mayor; H. S. Rittenhouse, clerk; Charles Hupper, Herman Peglow, W. F. Humphrey, W. B. Wiethorn and A. W. Lenth, councilmen. There is a volunteer fire company of which O. F. Bushing is chief. The water works has good pressure from a tower 120 feet high, and was installed at a cost of \$18,000. Monona is particularly proud of its schools. There is a fine building worth \$15,000, which contains ten rooms. Domestic science, agriculture and manual training are among the branches taught, and nine teachers are employed.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Congregationalism in Monona dates back to the pioneer days of the town. Before the organization of church or society Rev. A. M.

Eastman served as pastor between the years 1849 and 1852. The Congregational church was organized in February, 1855, D. B. Davidson, pastor. In the early history of the church, services were held in school houses. In 1865, during the pastorate of J. R. Upton, lots were secured and steps taken toward the erection of a church building, the dedication took place December 19, 1866. The building committee was P. P. Olmstead, E. Boley and Charles L. McGonigle. Trustees at that time were S. H. Oathout, S. H. Thompson and J. B. Goddard. The church was remodeled and dedicated again January 3, 1904, J. E. Grinnell, pastor. The following have served as pastors of the Monona Congregational church: A. M. Eastman, before organization, D. B. Davidson, J. R. Upton, J. M. Smith, Palmer Litts, W. S. Potwin, Franklin Elliott, A. A. Young, W. H. Klose, S. T. Beatty, J. E. Grinnell, Burton H. Cheney, W. E. King, G. W. Meek and C. H. Linn the present pastor. The Sunday School, Christian Endeavor and Ladies' Aid Society are organizations connected with the church.

#### THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

The German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation was organized on July 13, 1884. Two weeks later, on July 27, 1884, the first selected minister in full charge, Rev. Fred Zimmermann, delivered his first sermon. In 1885 the congregation has built a church 36x60. This church building was dedicated on the second Sunday in Advent, 1885. In 1886 Rev. Zimmermann accepted a call to a larger congregation at Waverly, Iowa, Rev. J. Graening being his successor. When the latter arrived at Monona on October 29th he found twenty members of the congregation, nine proprietors and eleven renters. Rev. J. Graening was for nearly nineteen years the highly esteemed minister of this congregation. In 1887 the German school house was built. In 1891 the congregation bought of the late Mr. Christ Taake the present parsonage and adjoining land embracing one whole large city block. In 1889 the parsonage was enlarged at a cost of \$650. On July 9th, 1905, Rev. Graening resigned, accepting a call to a congregation at Maxfield, Iowa. On September 27th, 1905, the present Rev. Otto Wappler took charge of the congregation. In 1908, the church was rebuilt and enlarged to 38x80 feet at the cost of \$3,200. It was rededicated on November 1, 1908. On July 11, 1909, the congregation could celebrate her twenty-fifth anniversary. The present standing of the congregation is eighty-seven members (the Lutherans counting only the heads of the families members). The Ladies' Aid Society has forty-five members. There are enrolled in the Sunday School fifty-two children with five teachers.

#### FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The first Methodist services were held in Monona in 1851, in the little frame school house. It was first a part of the Yellow River Mission and then of the Lansing Mission which included thirty-three charges and covered a circuit of many miles. Silas Warner was one of the first Methodist preachers. In 1854 there were seven Methodists

in Monona, Mr. and Mrs. William Haworth, Mr. and Mrs. John Killen, Mr. and Mrs. Snell and Mrs. Bollers. In 1855 they were joined by Mr. and Mrs. James Stout. The first pastor was Rev. William Newton and he was followed by Rev. Burchard and Rev. Stout. The first church was built in 1867 and dedicated by Rev. William Cobb, in 1868. For many years this was known as Monona Circuit and the clergy had many other charges to visit. The list of pioneer preachers is a long one but contains the names of many of the saints of the church. A parsonage was erected in later years but the old church building was used until the pastorate of Rev. James B. Bird. A handsome brick structure, modern in every way was then erected and the parsonage remodelled, at a cost of \$19,000, making the value of church property in the neighborhood of \$25,000, all free from debt. The building contains a fine auditorium, Sunday school rooms and club rooms with kitchen and dining room. The building was dedicated May 10, 1914, Rev. E. R. Zaring, D. D., of Chicago, delivering the dedicatory address.

A history of the Catholic church will be found in the chapter devoted to the Catholic churches of the county.

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Monona Post No. 495, Grand Army of the Republic was commissioned by the Department of Iowa, April 8th, 1892. The charter members were: Harvey S. Curtis, Robert Boyce, William Surring, Daniel J. Dull, Simeon B. Dull, Robert W. Randall, Hiram Booth, Theodore Sherman, Edward F. Sliter, John L. Howorth, William H. Tucker, John Turner, Warren Cassidy, John J. Littler, John Montgomery, Samuel Thibids, William H. Nelings, William Schmitt and William Wellman. The first officers chosen were: Post commander, Theodore Sherman; senior vice commander, William H. Nelings; junior vice commander, William Wellman; quartermaster, William H. Tucker; surgeon, Hiram Booth; Chaplain, John J. Littler; adjutant, Harvey S. Curtis; sergeant major, William Schmitt; quartermaster sergeant, Simeon B. Dull, officer of the day, Edward F. Sliter; officer of the guard, John L. Howorth. The first regular meeting was held April 16th, 1892, and the first Memorial services were held the following month, in the M. E. church on Sunday, under auspices of J. J. Littler, chaplain. Rev. W. N. Brown delivered the Memorial Day address.

The following have served as commanders of the post: 1892-3, Theodore Sherman; 1894, George H. Otis; 1895, E. F. Sliter; 1896, William H. Nelings; 1897, Melvin Davis; 1898, George H. Otis; 1899, Theodore Sherman; 1900-1, Harvey S. Curtis, 1902-3, William Schmitt; 1904, J. J. Littler; 1905-6, George H. Otis; 1907-8, Theodore Sherman; 1909, William Schmitt; 1910-11, George H. Otis; 1912-13, Warren Cassidy; 1914-15-16, George H. Otis. At this date there are only fourteen members left of the thirty-eight enrolled.

In 1915 a Barre-Vermont granite monument was erected in the Monona cemetery at a cost of \$2,000. The contemplated improvement of the ground, surrounding the monument, will complete a tribute to the hero dead, highly creditable to the committee in charge and the people of Monona, who have contributed largely for the erection of the



monument and the improvement of the plat of ground reserved. The committee were George H. Otis, Theodore Sherman and William H. Nelings.

#### CLAYTON LODGE NO. 70, A. F. & A. M.

Clayton Lodge No. 70, A. F. & A. M., of Monona was instituted March 30th, 1855, by a dispensation granted by the Grand Lodge of the State of Iowa. The charter is dated June 6th, 1856, and the first officers under the dispensation were: W. M., John Northrup; S. W., William S. Scott; J. W., Moses Treters; treasurer, C. N. Atwood; secretary, Charles Bates; tyler, William Crawford; chaplain, N. N. Soule. The first officers under the charter were: W. M., John Northrup; S. W., William S. Scott; J. W., Charles A. Dean; treasurer, P. B. Mason; secretary, T. R. Comstock; S. D., B. H. Olmstead; J. D., E. H. Fowler; tyler, S. M. Wilford; chaplain, Rev. James Scott.

In 1882 the roll of membership numbered 166. The deceased members are: LeGrand Olmsted, Horace Emery, Oliver R. Hastings, C. R. Atwood, Bradley Olmsted, Thomas Glass, P. B. Mason, A. H. Doe, Homer E. Smith, Finley Egbert, J. R. Bywater, Gordon H. Gile, Ira P. Winters, E. C. Koontz, A. M. Cortis, J. S. Watkins, J. D. Smith, Albert E. Elmore, E. L. Ernest, J. W. Thomas, J. A. Wingate, J. R. Milliman, C. A. Dean, Thomas Cummings, Thad S. Egberth, John Tapper, J. K. Gile, John Dizon, J. R. Gustisen, L. L. Renshaw, Frank L. Sherman, William Wellman, Nathaniel Nichols, Silas Scott, Silas Egbert, H. B. McNeil, William S. Scott. The officers of the year 1916 are: W. M., Henry Hupfer; secretary, George H. Otis. The lodge at present is in a prosperous condition and is gradually growing in numbers.

#### EASTERN STAR

This organization, which is an auxiliary to the Masonic fraternity, was granted a charter from the parent state order, October 26, 1899. There were twenty-three charter members, with the following list of officers duly installed: W. M., Abbie Slitor; W. P., Ed F. Slitor; A. M., Sarah Nelings; secretary, Mary Bywater; treasurer, Lizzie Killen. There are now fifty-seven members, and the lodge is in fine working order. For the year 1916 the following officers were elected: W. M., Ederyna Perry; W. P., Dr. George Tapper; A. M., Anna Tapper; secretary, Ella Gertisan; treasurer, Josephine Haefer.

#### ODD FELLOWS

Northern Light Lodge No. 156 was chartered October 17, 1867, and was instituted November 5, 1867, by Orlando McCraney, of McGregor. The charter members were: L. G. Ireland, E. L. Rice, W. H. Murphy, Jonas De Graw and A. A. Fonda. These members had first joined Itasca Lodge No. 111, at McGregor and then withdrew to form the new lodge. By May, 1873, the lodge had thirty-three members and a balance of \$250 in the treasury. A lot and building were bought, just west of the present Citizens State Bank. In 1879 the property was enlarged and improved and it was clear of

debt. In 1884 the lodge bought four acres of farm land and prepared it for cemetery purposes. Lots were sold to any who wished and for many years the Odd Fellows controlled the city cemetery, beautifying it with trees, flowers, walks and drives. On November 16, 1884, the lodge property was destroyed by fire and in 1887 it was decided to rebuild. This was done in conjunction with C. A. Dean and a fine two-story structure was built. In 1896 the lodge purchased Mr. Dean's interest, in 1902 a brick and brick veneered addition was built at a cost of \$4,400, making the property 73x78 feet. The lodge hall is in the second story and is equipped with dining room, kitchen and ante rooms. It is used by other organizations and is one of the social centers of the town. The lodge is in fine financial condition, with no debt, property upon which the taxes are \$151, and having paid several thousands of dollars in sick benefits and special relief. It has fifty-five members and has lost but one member for non-payment of dues in the past six years. The executive officers for 1916 are: J. W. Moyer, N. G., and E. L. Rice, secretary.

MONONA CAMP, NO. 4331, MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

Organized November 7, 1896, by J. A. Sturtevant. The first officers were: Dr. J. E. Robertson, Consul; John Woodmansee, Adviser; F. L. Eaton, Banker; Harry C. Fox, Clerk; L. A. Walch, Escort; Joe Keleher, Sentry; John Schmitt, Watchman. Managers: Wm. H. Hanson, John Kielty and John Schmitt. Number of deaths since organization, 13. Present officers are J. A. Maiers, Consul; Harry C. Fox, Clerk. Present membership 104. Meeting nights first and third Wednesday of each month. Amount paid in death benefits since organization \$25,000.00.

MONONA LODGE, NO. 211, MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA

Organized January 25th, 1898, with a charter membership of 19. The first officers were: J. Q. Rupp, President; C. E. Witt, Vice President; F. H. Howard, Treasurer; F. W. Lange, Secretary; Andrew Kean, Chaplain; Geo. Egbert, Conductor; L. H. Kurdelmeier, Watchman; Herman Hensel, Sentry. Directors: John Schroeder, Ed Oliver and E. F. Slitor. Number of deaths since organization, seven. Present officers are: J. Q. Rupp, President; F. J. Steele, Secretary and Treasurer. Present membership, 51.

MONONA HOMESTEAD, NO. 395, BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMEN

Organized November 2, 1899, with eighteen charter members. The first officers were: L. A. Wellman, Foreman; C. D. McGoon, Correspondent; Geo. Graham, Master of Ceremonies; E. R. Collins, Overseer; Dr. M. D. Brown, Master of Accounts; G. J. McGoon, Physician; H. L. Michelson, Sentinel; M. Wiedenmann, Guard; Geo. Wagner, Watchman; Mrs. R. L. M. Collins, Lady Rowena; Mrs. Estella Graham, Lady Rebecca. Number of deaths since organization, seven. Present officers are: J. A. Maiers, Foreman; W. F.

Humphrey, Correspondent and Master of Accounts. Present membership 61. Meeting nights second Tuesday of each month.

### McGREGOR

McGregor, with a population of about 1,500, is located on the line of the great C., M. & St. P. Ry. It has a complete system of water works, has one of the best equipped and most successful electric lighting plants in the state, and a telephone system that reaches far into the country. It has one of the finest opera houses of its size in the state, and a hotel which will be completed and opened to the public by January first, which would be an ornament to any city in the state. It has excellent schools, churches of nearly every denomination, and the best of society prevails.

In fact it is a city of home enterprise, and is full of wide-awake business men. The town has never been cursed with booms or boomers, and every step forward in its commercial, social and municipal affairs but mark its substantial growth, development and advancement. It is a busy bustling city, sustained by enterprises which give it a metropolitan air, and the actual advancement of the city has just begun. The sentiment of advancement has taken possession of the people—and it is commented upon by everyone who visits the town. The present city officers are: Mayor W. F. Daubenberger; Councilmen J. D. Pickel, A. Clemens, M. X. Geske, John Kramer and James McLaughlin; Clerk L. N. Kramer.

The city contains two banks, four churches, a weekly newspaper, The North Iowa Times, bottling works, creamery, book binding establishment, wholesale drug concern, two garages, excellent hotels, one of the largest grain firms in the state, Gilchrist & Co., while as a market for hogs Henry Reeves handles more than any other firm in Iowa. Dry goods, clothing, shoes and groceries are all exclusive lines and there are amusement places, photographers, bakery, laundry, etc. J. A. Walter is chief of the very effective volunteer fire department. A water works system owned by the city is valued at \$25,000. The sanitary sewer system and 25,000 yards of brick paving have cost the city \$60,000, the school property is valued at \$40,000 and 500 pupils are enrolled in the schools, which are of the highest standard. Buel park, in the heart of the city, is one of the prettiest in northeastern Iowa. An artesian well 1,500 feet deep furnishes an abundance of the purest water and the McGregor electric light and power company furnishes continuous day and night service.

McGregor suffered greatly, and for many years, from the extravagances of its father, but the plucky little city kept on paying its debts and making improvements until by 1914 it was able to declare that its total indebtedness was but \$5,500. With this excellent condition of its finances, the city under the leadership of Mayor Daubenberger determined upon extensive improvements. The sewer system was modernized and extended at large expense and a contract let for the pavement of the Main street with vitrified brick. This improvement was retarded by the flood of 1916, but was pushed as rapidly as possible and McGregor can now boast of the only paved street in the county. Not only will this be a great advantage to the



business section but it is believed that these improvements will greatly lessen the danger of floods. The business portion of McGregor is all of substantial brick and there are many handsome residences nestled in the coulee and snuggled against the sides of the majestic bluffs. With its natural advantages, as the most scenic spot in all Iowa, with the trade of the great river which is certain at some future date to again rise to importance; with the large improvements under way at North McGregor, which will mean permanent addition of a considerable sum to the payroll of the Milwaukee railroad and added residents, there is no question but that the future of these twin cities is full of hope and that while the extravagant dreams of the 60s may not be fulfilled there is the basis for permanent prosperity and growth and that the two McGregors may yet become the metropolis of north-eastern Iowa.

The schools are in charge of Thos. R. Roberts, superintendent, and a corps of twelve teachers. There is a domestic science department with electrical equipment and a manual training department and is an accredited school. F. G. Bell is president of the board and A. J. Widman is secretary.

Among the churches and lodges are the following:

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Was organized January 2, 1857, with seven charter members, Rev. O. Emerson, moderator, and Robert Grant, scribe. Rev. Joseph Bloomer, coming October, 1857, was the first pastor and he remained until his death. Succeeding pastors were Rev. T. A. Wadsworth, 1859; Rev. H. G. McArthur, 1859-60; Rev. S. P. Sloane, 1860-70; Rev. D. R. Macnab, 1871-72; Rev. Milliken, 1873-74; Rev. C. C. Cragin, 1875-83; Rev. J. E. Bissell, 1883-87; Rev. C. A. Marshall, 1887-1900, serving thirteen years; Rev. G. A. Francis, 1901-07; Rev. Mann, 1907-09; Rev. S. T. Kidder, 1909-10; Rev. Alex. E. Cutler, 1910, to date. The first church was erected in 1859, was a brick building, and while greatly enlarged and improved is still used. A fine pipe organ was added during the pastorate of Rev. C. C. Cragin and in 1886 extensive repairs and improvements were made to the church. Under Rev. G. A. Francis, a tower was added to the church. The commodious parsonage was the gift of Mrs. J. N. Gilchrist. Church societies are the Sunday School, Ladies' Industrial Society, Missionary Society and Christian Endeavor. The church is in excellent condition, the membership being 222, thirty-one having been added during the present year.

#### METHODIST CHURCH

In January, 1852, Rev. Elisha Warner, of Prairie du Chien, preached the first Methodist sermon in McGregor. The service was held in the carpenter shop of J. M. Burbridge. Rev. J. L. Kelley was the first regular pastor and J. M. Burbridge was the superintendent of the first Sunday School. Succeeding pastors were Revs. A. Bishop, J. R. Cameron, John Webb, F. C. Mather, Wm. McCormac, (assistant) Rev. J. D. Havens, under whose charge the first frame church was built; W. H. Keith, C. W. Babcock, during whos pas-

torate the parsonage was built; S. M. Brunson, Isaac Newton, J. K. Fuller, F. C. Wolfe, L. Pancoast, C. N. Stearns, P. E. Brown, who began the erection of the present church, services being held in the new basement, in 1869; W. H. Sparling, Wm. Fawcett, 1872-73, during whose pastorate the new church was dedicated; L. H. Carhart and S. W. Heald, at which time the church debt was liquidated.

Other pastors were Revs. J. W. Clinton, 1877-79; J. B. Casebur, 1879-82; J. A. Keer, 1882-83; H. S. Church, 1883-84; D. W. Marby, 1884-87; N. Pye, 1887-88; R. F. Hurlblut, 1888-89; Wm. Lease, 1890-92; W. W. Carlton, 1892-93; L. L. Lockard, 1893-96, during whose pastorate a parsonage costing \$2,500 was built; J. W. McCord, 1896-97; S. R. Ferguson, 1897-99; M. H. Smith, 1899-01; D. C. Dutton, 1901-04; V. E. Hall, 1904-07; H. Williams, 1907-08; H. F. Wyatt, 1908-10; C. C. Lusk, 1910-14; T. M. Neilson, 1910-15; C. A. Peddicord, 1915, to date.

Under Rev. Dutton, extensive improvements were made to the interior of the church and a pipe organ was added, all of which have been nearly paid for. The church is in a flourishing condition, and the present pastor, Rev. C. A. Peddicord, is popular with his people. He has taken a great interest in

#### THE BOY SCOUTS OF MCGREGOR

The boy scout patrol at McGregor is part of the international organization. Formerly there was a council of the boy scouts at McGregor, but the work languished until Rev. C. A. Peddicord agreed to act as scout master. He has taken great interest in the work and there is now an active patrol of eight members. An effort is being made to bring this patrol to such a degree of perfection that other boys will be anxious to join and secure the benefits of this order.

#### FIRST CHURCH OF SCIENTISTS

Was organized on the tenth day of May, 1892, by Mrs. Elizabeth Webster, of Chicago, Ill. The articles of incorporation were drawn by Mr. A. Chapin, of McGregor, Iowa. The charter members were: L. C. Farnum, Jennie A. Farnum, Emma F. Farnum, E. Hoxsie, Mrs. E. Hoxsie, C. C. Standert, Sarah Standert, A. F. Hofer, Mrs. M. Hofer, Robert Lindsay, Sarah E. Lindsay, Edith B. Lindsay, Belle Halverson, Mrs. Jennie Mason, G. S. Douglass, Julia Douglass, H. H. Reynolds, Nelda Reynolds, William Ulrich, Matilda Ulrich and William Scharff. They have recently secured a lot for a church and also the plans for same, on which they intend building next spring, at a cost of about \$4,000. At present services are held in the Barron Block. The attendance is good at present but many more are expected when the church is built.

#### THE EASTERN STAR

Bluff City Chapter No. 268 was instituted by Worthy Grand Matron Mary E. Rathburn, on the seventh day of December, 1899.

The first officers: Worthy matron, Phoebe J. Jones; worthy

patron, Albert Clemens; associate matron, Louise Fette; conductress, Edith Goddard; associate conductress, Emma Gilman; secretary, Georgia M. Elweel; treasurer, Emma Dornbach; Adah, Anne Scott; Ruth, Ruth Webb; Esther, Nellie Olson; Martha, Eva R. Jordan; Electa, Anna Fairfield; warder, Augusta Billings; sentinel, Lyman Bass; chaplain, Ida Townsend; marshal, Amy Williams; organist, Mabel K. Bliss.

The meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month in the Masonic hall. Since its organization there have been initiated into this chapter, 136 members, and now Bluff City Chapter is one of the most prosperous and popular fraternal organizations in the county. Deceased members are: Lyman Bass, Fannie Hunting, Mary Plumb, and Mary Hagensick. The present membership is about 100, and Ella B. Richards is the worthy matron.

#### MASONIC ORDER

Bezer Lodge No. 135 A. F. & A. M. was organized February 23, 1857. Charter members were: G. L. Bass, M. J. Brown, John Chambers, George S. C. Scott, Samuel S. Janes, George W. T. Harding and Robert Grant. The oldest living member is Samuel J. Peterson who joined the lodge July 16, 1860. The membership is over one hundred and meetings are held the first Monday of every month. F. G. Huebsch is the worthy master and W. L. Eichendorf, secretary.

#### AUTO TRAILS ASSOCIATION

The McGregor Auto Trails Association was organized April 20, 1916, with thirty-four charter members. The purpose is to mark, blaze and organize automobile trails into McGregor and to keep them in repair so far as possible. The association has already been of much benefit to the community and to motorists. F. L. Kinsley is president and W. L. Eichendorf, secretary.

#### THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION OF MCGREGOR

This organization has for its purpose the promotion of the project for United States to secure the beautiful and historic tract south of McGregor as a national park. Many prominent citizens of Iowa are active members of this organization and the effort to secure this action on the part of the government is not confined to Clayton county but is state wide. L. H. Beam is secretary of the association and the executive committee consists of J. M. Berry, F. C. Gilmore, North McGregor, A. Huebsch, F. S. Richards, John Kramer, Robert Quigley and M. X. Geske of McGregor. J. M. Berry is chairman of the publicity committee under whose direction a handsome folder, descriptive of the proposed park, has been issued. The project has received favorable comment in the press from coast to coast and has an earnest advocate in the person of Senator W. S. Kenyon of Iowa.

Other McGregor organizations are the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, Modern Woodmen of America, Woodmen of the World, Foresters and the Ladies Tourist Club.



## NORTH MCGREGOR

North McGregor is situated on the Mississippi river in the northeastern part of the county just opposite Prairie du Chien. It grew up as the terminus of the McGregor & Western Railroad and is now the head of four divisions of the C., M. & St. P. Ry. It has suffered severely both by fire and flood during the years past, but at present its prospects seem brighter than for any other town in Clayton county. It is an ill flood which brings no one good, and as a result of the flood of 1916 it is now expected that more than one million dollars will be expended by the Milwaukee Railroad in improvements at North McGregor. This means not only a large temporary pay roll but an increase in the number of permanent employes. The town is situated at the mouth of Bloody Run and extends some two miles up the narrow valley of that turbulent stream. The town officers are: Mayor, Robert E. Edgar; recorder, W. R. Brown; councilmen, G. H. Dahman, Cloyd Ferris, J. A. Hervison, John Presho, William Wingen. The city is proud of its schools which, however, are carried only to the tenth grade, older pupils being sent to the high school at McGregor at the expense of the district. The school property is valued at \$5,800 and there is a library of 775 volumes. The attendance is about 160. There are four rooms and C. W. Bean is principal. Henry A. Keen is president of the board and F. C. Gilmore, secretary. A unique feature is that the school board furnishes transportation daily to pupils living in the extreme western part of the town. There is a well equipped volunteer fire company of which F. C. Gilmore has been chief for the past twelve years. This company has done excellent work in its home town, and owing to its availability and promptness, has often been called to render aid to other cities.

The Catholics of the community attend the church at McGregor, but a chapel fund has been established and the Catholics expect soon to have a church home of their own. Business interests are well represented in every line. There is an opera house, and the city boasts an excellent hotel, "The Berry," together with other hostelries. Henry Reeves, owner of the Reeves Stock yards, is one of the largest shippers of live stock in northern Iowa. Other notable industries are the government fish works. Young fish are kept in tanks through which artesian water flows continually. These fish are rescued from the sloughs of the river where they are left by falling water. This work begins in July and lasts until the river closes. These fish are in turn distributed to interior streams in various states. From 75,000 to 100,000 fish are thus placed from this station annually. There is also a large stone crushing plant operated since 1914 by Sawvell Bros. An electrical crusher is used and the plant has grown to large proportions. Another peculiar industry is the shipment of mineral medical mud. B. F. Rosecranz of the Prairie du Chien Sanitarium discovered the medicinal qualities of this soil which has been found to equal the celebrated mud baths of Germany for the cure of rheumatism. This mud is used at the sanitarium and is shipped to many points. An artesian well furnishes the water supply for the city and plans for a city water works system are under way. Anna B. Berry is the postmistress.

The largest single interest is that the Milwaukee Railway system. During each day there are no less than fifteen passenger trains in and out of North McGregor, and as a junction point, this brings much transient trade. As the head of four divisions, North McGregor is the home of many trainmen and the round house and extensive switch yards furnish much employment. The pay roll now averages \$35,000 per month. On account of the constantly increasing business, and more especially on account of the recurrent floods, the C., M. & St. P. Ry. contemplates large improvements by which they will enlarge the valley and make the terminals at North McGregor the finest on the system. It is proposed to straighten and deepen the channel of Bloody Run, thus avoiding many bridges and lessening the danger of floods. The magnitude of this work will be better understood when it is known that the proposed channel will run where now stands a bluff nearly 200 feet high. The whole level of the yards covering many hundred acres will be raised ten feet, and for this purpose much additional ground has been bought. There is to be a cement round house with a capacity of from forty to fifty engines. The machine, car, and locomotive repair shops will be of cement and new departments will be added with increased capacity. The present outlet of Bloody Run is just south of the pontoon bridge. This outlet will be moved several hundred feet south and the present course filled. The stream will then be straight and flow for a long distance through deep and concrete walls. Freight and transfer offices are to be built on a larger scale and a new pontoon bridge is being built. This is 218 feet long with automatic hoisting apparatus. More than \$1,000,000 will be spent and it is believed that this will make North McGregor a desirable location for factories.

Among the lodges of North McGregor are the following:

#### SOVEREIGN CAMP WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

Riverview Camp No. 432 was organized December 3, 1913. Officers: Consul commander, E. G. Edwards; advisory lieutenant, J. E. Wells; banker, C. M. Nelson; clerk, F. C. Gilmore; escort, Arthur Rehm; watchman, John Presho; sentry, Frank Connell; managers, W. F. Trainer, H. J. Shafer, C. H. Dickens.

Present officers: Consul commander, E. G. Edwards; clerk, W. F. Trainer.

#### WOODMAN CIRCLE

Maple Leaf Grove No. 159 was organized September 28, 1914. Officers: Guardian, Honora L. Monty; past guardian, Emma Schott; adviser, Blanche Trainer; attendant, Mayme Ross; chaplain, Chattie Cotant; banker, Mae Connell; clerk, Bessie Gilmore; outer sentinel, Kathryn Kelly; inner sentinel, Hannah Connell; managers, Lora Scott, Anna Berry, Kathryn Grady. Present officers: Guardian, Honora L. Monty; clerk, Mae Connell.

#### BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMEN

Riverview Homestead No. 4828 was organized September, 1914. Officers: Foreman, William F. Helberg; M. C., William Wooden;

correspondent, L. E. Goodhile; chaplain, Mrs. Mary Mitchell; overseer, E. C. Atchison; watchman, James Duffy; L. Rowena, Rosella Wooden. Present officers: Foreman, Everett Hagensick; M. C., Nels Carden; chaplain, Mrs. Mary Mitchell; overseer, Paul Trenkler; watchman, James Duffy; sentinel, William McGowan; L. Rowena, Rosella Wooden.

#### METHODIST CHURCH

During the pastorate of Samuel W. Heald, 1874-1877, he held a series of revival meetings at North McGregor which resulted in the conversion of many souls and the organization of a class and a regular preaching service.

Under the efficient direction of Rev. W. D. Mahry the church building at North McGregor was erected and dedicated, free from debt. Since the organization of the class, North McGregor has been a part of the McGregor church or charge.

Under the pastorate of Rev. D. C. Dutten, 1901-1904, a beautiful little church was built on Pleasant Ridge and is called the Pleasant Ridge church. The present membership of the whole charge, McGregor, North McGregor and Pleasant Ridge is 230. During the present pastorate of 1915, sixty new members have been received.

#### OSTERDOCK

Osterdock is an enterprising little village on the Volga River branch of the Milwaukee railroad. Chas. Friedlein is mayor, John F. Groth, clerk; P. W. Kickbush, treasurer, and Wm. Moser, Elmer Moser, J. P. Haberman and Chas. Bowman, councilmen. There are two good general stores, hotel, blacksmith shop, harness shop and garage. The creamery which does a considerable business is owned by the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Company, but is operated by Irvin Greyvill. The most pretentious building is the Odd Fellows' hall, which is of two stories and contains the opera house and lodge room. The town is divided by the Turkey River, the bridge containing the longest span in Iowa. While the population is but 104, there are evidences of growth, for during the past year three dwellings, one store and an addition to the hotel have been built. It is a very pretty little place and the surrounding scenery is beautiful. Just outside the city limits are two ice caves which contain ice the year around, affording ideal places for picnics. The schools are in charge of Ethel M. Bush, and H. A. Mallory is secretary of the board. The postmaster is John C. Kickbush. The order of Odd Fellows is represented by a strong organization, with H. A. Mallory as secretary.

#### REBEKAH LODGE

New Hall Rebekah Lodge, No. 468, was organized October 20, 1899, with sixteen charter members. The first officers were N. G., Anna Haught; V. G., Lydia Friedlein; Rec. S., R. C. White; Fin. S., E. A. Bush; R. S. N. G., R. H. Bush; L. S. N. G., J. F. Haught; R. S. V. G., Susanna Kickbush; L. S. U. G., Hannah Bush; Cond.,



Rose Hansel; O. S. G., J. F. Hansel; I. S. G., Chas. Friedlein; chaplain, Fannie Bush. Bertha Tomkins is the present noble grand and Ethel Bush is secretary. The membership is 70 and deceased members are Wm. Bowman, S. W. Bowman, Lena Moser, Amel Moser, J. C. Hansel, Bertha Brown, Ed. Hansel, Emma Moser, Lucy White and E. A. Bush.

### ST. OLAF

St. Olaf was founded in 1872. Ole Knudson, E. Embretson and H. H. Strom were the first merchants and Strom the first postmaster. The town was incorporated May 3, 1900, and the first officers, elected May 28, 1900, were A. W. Luth, mayor; John Christensen, treasurer; William Carney, clerk, and E. Embretson, H. D. Thompson, F. K. Orvis, John K. Olson, K. K. Stearns and Harry Barnum, councilmen.

The town has had a steady growth and is a good market place with a number of substantial business blocks and handsome residences. Since the incorporation wooden sidewalks have been replaced by cement and an excellent gravity water system installed. There is a storage reservoir with an elevation of 90 feet and with adequate mains both for domestic use and fire service. There is a volunteer fire department equipped with hose cart, ladder and other necessary apparatus. A chief industry is the creamery of which John F. Johnson is treasurer and Amond Laison, secretary. Herbert Olson is the butter maker. Another important concern is the St. Olaf Stock Company, of which E. Embretson is president and John K. Olson, secretary and manager. The St. Olaf Savings Bank is a strong institution and is mentioned more at length in the chapter devoted to the banks of the county. The merchants carry good stock and are enterprising and popular.

There is a substantial school building containing two rooms presided over by Nettie J. Lauve and Mary Christensen. The school officers are A. L. Peterson, president; O. K. Houg, treasurer; Theodore Knudson, secretary, and directors, Otto O. Johnson, John E. Jacobson, A. L. Peterson, F. M. Gilbert and Herman Klinkenberg. The city administration is in the hands of Otto O. Johnson, mayor; John Christensen, treasurer; F. K. Orvis, clerk, and J. E. Jacobson, T. O. Knudson, K. O. Embretson, H. W. Wilke and K. K. Stearns. James L. Reynolds is the present postmaster.

### MARION NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

This church was first organized at Gunder from members of Clermont and Norway congregations, in 1870. The cornerstone of the Marion church was laid September 10, 1871, and the church was dedicated September 30, 1874. It cost about \$4,000. The Norway Norwegian Lutheran church of Wagner Township is located two miles west of St. Olaf. Its first church was built in 1857. Its second church was dedicated in 1874 and cost about \$3,500. This was succeeded in 1909 by the present handsome brick structure which was built at a cost of \$15,000.

As early as 1851, Rev. C. L. Clausen, of Rock Prairie, Wis., and

other pastors, preached to their Norwegian Lutheran brothers. The first church record was commenced by Rev. V. Koran, of Washington Prairie, Iowa. Rev. N. Brant preached in the county from 1851 and 1852 and conducted the first confirmation on October 10, 1852. The class consisted of Peter Helegson, Ambjor Halvorsdatter, Egebor Austensdatter and Maran Abrahamsdatter, and took place in the log cabin of Peter Eitekleps. Among the pastors of the church were Rev. Koran to 1862; Rev. Hjort, 1862-69; Rev. Waldeland, 1869-90, being first resident pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. J. C. Gjerstad, from 1891-98. Under Rev. Jacob Tanner, who served from 1898 until 1903, the four congregations were divided, Clermont and Highland were one charge and Marion and Norway another. The old parsonage east of Gunder and eighty acres owned by the church were sold and two new parsonages were built, one in Clermont, and one in St. Olaf. Rev. N. Arvesen is the present pastor of Norway and Marion congregations, having been installed March 6, 1904. Marion congregation has a membership of two hundred and fifty and has efficient church societies. The officers are E. Skarshaug, president, Board of Trustees; members of board, Simon Nelson, Knud Mork, E. E. Landsgard and Nels Stinerson. Nels Nelson, secretary of the church for many years, died in 1916.

Norway congregation has two hundred and eighty members, three ladies' societies, one young ladies' society and Sunday School, which is held in St. Olaf. Both congregations have eight months parochial school. H. Waag is the teacher while the pastors give religious instruction. The trustees are E. Embretson, president, Even Glesne, Ole L. Embretson and Carl Christenson. John F. Johnson has been secretary for many years. The two congregations have erected a handsome parsonage at St. Olaf. Services are held in the two churches on alternate Sundays. The congregations belong to the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, and their financial condition is good, there being no debt of any kind. The Norway congregation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in September, 1901. The Norwegian immigrants who came to this country in the early fifties were faithful to their church and their descendants have followed in their footsteps.

### STRAWBERRY POINT

Strawberry Point is a beautiful little city of 1,200 inhabitants, situated in the southwest corner of Clayton County, on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, 60 miles northwest of Dubuque. It is noted for its many beautiful homes and for its high grade of citizenship. For many years the creamery business, supported by the rich dairying country about it, has been its most important industry. It now has the largest whole milk creamery in the United States. Over 13,000,000 pounds of milk are handled annually and the institution pays yearly more than \$178,000 to farmers and for labor. For more than thirty years it has been the seat of a district fair, which has grown to have a reputation as one of the best of its kind.

Strawberry Point owns its waterworks system, having two deep wells, electric light plant, and sanitary sewer system with septic tanks. Not only does it own these public utilities but the total debt of

the city is but \$5,000. The city was laid out by W. H. and D. M. Stearns in 1852 and was first named Franklin. The present city officials are: Mayor, J. R. Alderson; clerk, Guy Scofield; treasurer, M. F. Harwood; councilmen, M. J. Goodrich, J. C. Ludy; R. C. Norris, Fred Pebler, Alex. Porter.

The municipal light and water plant was installed at a cost of \$25,000, and the city owns a substantial city hall built of brick in 1909, which houses the city officers and the apparatus of the volunteer fire company.

Strawberry Point is particularly proud of its schools, which are housed in a large and modern brick building. Fourteen teachers are employed, with W. C. Hardy as superintendent. There is an accredited high school and special courses are given in agriculture, domestic science and manual training. One of the best improved roads in the county leads out of Strawberry Point. An annual feature is the agricultural fair and the grounds are exceptionally good, with amphitheater, floral hall, poultry house, large barns and an excellent race track. The city has just been bonded for \$30,000 for the installation of modern sewage system and disposal plant.

Among the civic organizations, the Commercial Club is important and has done much for the welfare of the city. The officers are R. R. Clark, president, and J. J. Brunner, secretary. All lines of retail business are well represented. The Mail-Press was established in 1874 and is edited by R. R. Clark. It is in a very prosperous condition, with fine linotype equipment. The location of the town is beautiful and to the graces of nature have been added those of arching shade trees, well kept lawns and handsome homes. Among the churches and lodges are the following:

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

First Congregational Church was organized in 1872 and in 1883 a church building was erected. Later a parsonage was added and in 1916 improvements to the value of \$4,200 were made. The present pastor is Rev. C. C. Harris and the church is in excellent financial condition and has 118 members. Connected with the church there are a Ladies' Aid, Thimble Society, Christian Endeavor, and a flourishing Sunday School with an enrollment of 100.

The Methodists also have a flourishing church of which Rev. C. Rose is pastor.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH

At the jubilee services of the First Baptist Church, January 14, 1906, F. F. Carrier read an historical sketch from which the following is gleaned. In the early fifties a few Baptist families settled near Strawberry Point; among them the Bush, Blanchard, Gardner and Sunderland families. January 19, 1856, a church was organized with fifteen members. They immediately began to build a church and this was dedicated October, 1857. Owing to the panic of 1857, it was impossible to realize on subscriptions and May, 1858, found the church in debt more than \$1,800 with interest from 10 to 15 per cent. It being impossible to raise this in the community, the pastor, Rev. George Scott, went to New York to negotiate a loan, Albert Bush, giving



a mortgage on his farm as security. This was but a temporary make-shift and in order to pay the debt the following unique plan was used: Each member agreed to raise a calf until three years old. All of these calves were marked with the recorded brand of the Baptist church. This novel plan met with favor not only in the church but with those outside, and many helped in this way. Soon Baptist calves were running at large among the farmers herd on the then open prairie. The herd, thirty-two in number, was finally sold for almost enough to pay the debt. This first church is still standing, although twice repaired and remodelled, the first time at a cost of \$600 and the second time at a cost of \$1,373. Recently, the church added a parsonage and barn at a cost of \$1,500. Articles of incorporation bear date of 1856.

The following is a list of the pastors in their order: H. M. Roat, George Scott, Alveo Bush, James Sunderland, Samuel Hill, Franklin Ridder, L. M. Wirting, C. H. Mitchelmore, George Peck, J. B. Ward, A. F. Shrapnack, N. A. Perry, A. R. Button, J. A. Abbott, M. H. Stickel, H. Bancroft, O. H. Sonner, H. A. Green, J. C. Pater, A. A. Ostriche, H. P. Langridge, S. H. Holden, S. A. Searey and W. R. Bailey. Since 1911 some \$600 has been expended for repairs in church and parsonage. The present membership is fifty-five. There is an energetic Sunday school of which F. F. Carrier is superintendent, and other active church societies.

#### THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN EMANUEL CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Church of Strawberry Point, Iowa, was organized on the sixth day of October, 1878. Its charter members were: George Duerst, F. Zeuch, G. Deindorfer, G. Stapel, H. Busse, Fred Schug, Ernest Schoeppe, Jacob Schmidt, Frederick Schmidt, Simon Moser, George Tauerbrey, John Brader, Peter Brell, Rev. Ernest Barkow was the first pastor and he remained there until the twenty-first day of January, 1883, and from April 15th to the present date Rev. Gustav A. Graf has been the pastor.

The church was built in 1882 at a cost of \$3,200 and was a frame structure 50 feet by 32 feet. The men on the building committee were: John Brader, Fred Schug, H. Marquardt, Fr. Schmidt and E. Donath. The building was dedicated on the eighth day of November, 1882. In 1884 the parsonage was built and in 1893 and 1904 this was enlarged. The school house was built in 1886 and was a wooden structure 24 feet by 16 feet. In 1902 the church was enlarged and remodeled at a cost of \$3,400 and in 1908 a pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$1,600, making the value of the church property at the present time \$12,000.

The present deacons are: Fred Pebler, J. Fink and F. S. Lundt. The trustees are: F. Weig, J. Eder and F. Glass. The pastor is the superintendent of the Sunday school.

The Ladies' Aid Society is an efficient body and the officers are: President, Mrs. M. Miller; vice president, Mrs. M. Feulner; secretary, Mrs. F. Feulner; treasurer, Mrs. E. Glass. The present membership of the church is 410, of these 325 are communicant members, while the charter members still connected with the church are: George Dueret and F. Schug.

## ODD FELLOWS

York Lodge No. 75 I. O. O. F. was organized at Little York on the eleventh day of October, 1855, and after the town of Strawberry Point was started they moved the lodge there and did not change its name. Nathan Schofield was one of the organizers of the lodge here and is one of the oldest Odd Fellows in the state, as he had joined six years before the York Lodge was organized at Strawberry Point, making him an Odd Fellow for sixty-seven years this fall.

At present there are 97 members and meetings are held Saturday night at Strawberry Point. The present officers are: Noble grand, B. R. Cole; vice grand, F. K. Dalton; secretary, E. H. Sargent; treasurer, M. F. Harwood.

The names of the deceased members are: Albert Schmitz, M. O. Barns, Brother Ludy, H. Deyo, Brother Clemings, F. Schmitz, J. M. Allen, J. Hedleson, A. M. Haskins, George Bruce, Peter Blake, Del Eaton, H. Eaton and W. Holbert.

## M. W. A. STRAWBERRY POINT

Whitewood Camp No. 156 Modern Woodmen of America located at Strawberry Point was organized January, 1886, with ten members. Today they have 270 members. The present officers are: J. J. Brunner, consul; A. L. Ridihalgh, adviser; J. C. Lundy, banker; R. C. Barnes, clerk.

## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The Strawberry Point Post No. 259 was organized on the fifth day of December, 1883. On August 12th, 1885, the name was changed to Henry Howard Post No. 259. The charter members were: H. R. Eaton, J. D. Inger, Albert Little, E. B. Williams, B. W. Phelps, R. W. Keith, E. B. Moreland, Nick Dershing, Ira Cole, Thomas H. Dunham, G. Cooley, Nick Dasching, K. W. Kingsley, A. G. Gosting, J. J. Stringer, George Deindorfer, F. W. Moin, H. L. Hacket, George B. Hall, R. A. Hale, Albert Alley, Nelson Roberts, J. W. Antrim, E. Tomkins, J. W. Thurber, H. H. Smith, H. A. Truair, Hiram Kacter, Victor Balluff, Ira H. Sargent, Jacob Miller, Charles Kimber, Nelson Gilbert, William Davis, D. P. Fowler, L. Jordan, A. Treadwell, Asa Haskins, A. Chapman, H. R. Colby, Edwin Smith, Morris H. Jewitt, Thomas Scott and George Scott.

The first officers were: Commander, P. W. Heith, Sr.; vice commander, Edwin Smith; junior vice commander, J. J. Stringer; surgeon, J. D. Inger; chaplain, G. Coley, quartermaster, Ira Cole; officer of the day, H. R. Eaton; officer of the guard, R. W. Kingsley, adjutant, Albert Little; sergeant major, Victor Balluff. Howard Lathrop is the present commander and there are but seven members left.

The dead comrades are many: H. R. Eaton, J. D. Inger, E. B. Williams, B. W. Phelps, A. B. Moreland, Nick Dushing, I. L. Cole, Thomas Dunham, G. Colley, A. G. Gosting, J. J. Stringer, F. W. More, H. L. Hacket, George B. Hall, L. A. Hale, Albert Alley, J. W. Antrim, E. Tomkins, H. H. Smith, H. A. Truair, P. S. Lamphier, Hiram

Kaster, Victor Balluff, Jacob Miller, Charles Kimber, William Davis, L. Jordan, A. Treadwell.

#### MASONIC ORDER

Strawberry Point Lodge No. 130 A. F. & A. M. was chartered June 2, 1858, with the following officers: Edwin Dunton, worshipful master; Alpheus Scott, senior warden; M. O. Barnes, junior warden. Charter members: M. O. Barnes, David Bradford, William Carley, Edwin Dunton, Charles Gliddon, A. B. Grannis, George Gifford, H. B. Ranney, Nathan Scofield, Alpheus Scott.

The present membership is seventy-one and the present officers are: H. M. Eaton, worshipful master; C. A. Schoeppe, senior warden; J. W. Preston, junior warden; R. C. Barnes, secretary; L. W. Preston, treasurer; R. R. Clark, senior deacon; Alex Porter, junior deacon; E. C. Rawson, tyler; J. R. Alderson, senior steward; Tyler Gilchrist, junior steward. Choir: Charles Roberts, J. W. Preston, William H. Howard, W. C. Harding.

#### EASTERN STAR

Chapter, No. 86, was organized June 12th, 1890. The charter dates September 11th, 1890, and was granted October 29th, 1890. The charter members were Mrs. Gertrude F. Moreland, Ida E. Baird, Mrs. L. J. Inger, Louise M. Blank, Emma Whitmarsh, Harriet Chesley, Martha Keith, P. N. Keith, J. R. McDonald, Mrs. L. E. McDonald, Aran Blake, E. B. McWilliams, Catharine Williams, Augusta Hardman, Alex. Porter, Mary Porter, Cephas Buttles, Grace R. Butles, Alwilda Wood and J. E. Baird.

The first officers were: Worthy matron, Mrs. E. A. Blake; worthy patron, J. C. Flenniken; asso. matron, Mrs. L. M. Blank; secretary, John D. Inger; treasurer, Mrs. L. E. McDonald; cond., Ida Baird; asst. cond., Minnie Gaylord; chaplain, Mrs. L. J. Inger; Adah, Dora Dunning; Ruth, Gertrude F. Moreland; Esther, Jennie Taylor; Martha, Emma Whitmarsh; Electa, Alwilda Wood; warder, Mrs. H. E. Chesley; sentinel, Aaron Blank.

The deceased members are Elizabeth Blake, LaFayette Chesley, Mary Baird, E. B. Williams, Mrs. L. E. McDonald, Mrs. H. E. Chesley, Alice Howard, Mr. Van Porter, Gilbert Cooley, Minnie Gaylor Martin, Ada M. Cooley, Margarite Fowells, Mrs. A. D. S. Cooley and W. H. Hoover. The membership is 109 and the executive officers of 1916 are worthy master, Gertrude Gilchrist Lawson; secretary, Belle Smith Davis.

The first Masonic lodge of Strawberry Point was organized November 14th, 1857, and E. S. chapter in 1859. The first worthy patron, who at that time did all the work and gave all the degrees, was Nathan Scofield. The meeting place was the hall over the old Scofield store building, a wooden structure that still stands, being now used as a feed store. As the surviving members relate, there was no ritual at that time and the sisters were all required to wear the regalia of the order, which consisted of large white collars and white aprons, both being adorned with pink stars in the corners, and it is said that a room full of ladies so dressed made a very fine appearance when the chapter was in session. The organization flourished for a time, but a few



years later, soon after the election of Squire Thompson as worthy patron, and Mrs. Peter Black as worthy matron, the former soon died and after his death a meeting was never called again.

The charter of the chapter and the minutes of these meetings were sent over to headquarters at Burlington, Iowa, and later were destroyed by a fire in that place, therefore a full list of the members can not be given, but those who are recalled by surviving members are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Scofield, Dr. and Mrs. Clark Rawson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Carley, Mr. and Mrs. Christey, Mr. and Mrs. Fremaire, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Pat Bigelow. The first worthy patron and Mrs. Peter Blake are still bright and active members of the order and were both present at the last meeting of our present chapter, on June 29th, 1916, which was a memorial to Judge Granger.

#### P. E. O. SOCIETY

Chapter E. R. was organized on April 28th, 1915. Its first officers were: President, Mrs. Myrtle Eaton; vice-president, Jessie Riddell; recording secretary, Gertrude Coykendall; corresponding secretary, Belle Davis; treasurer, Alwilda Howard; chaplain, Gertrude Rawson; guard, Carrie Roberts. The charter members were: Mrs. Myrtle Eaton, Jessie Riddell, Gertrude Coykendall, Belle Davis, Alwilda Howard, Gertrude Rawson and Carrie Roberts.

The present officers are the same as they were in the first year of its organization and the membership has had three new members added, Ruth Clark, Kate Newberry and Kathryn Westfall. The meetings are held every Wednesday of each month, at the homes of the members.

#### ROYAL NEIGHBORS

Friendship Camp No. 232, R. N. of A., was organized December 21st, 1895. The first officers were: Oracle, Martha Beavers, vice oracle, Josephine Kinneberg; recorder, Addie Hale; receiver, Kate Helgerman; chaplain, Eliza Ely; marshal, Florence Potts; asst. marshal, Kate Helgermann; inside sentry, Lucy McDonald; outside sentry, Ruth Lamphere; mgrs., Ida Hughes, Eva Davis and Libby Davis; physician, F. H. Howard; past oracle, Harriet Dunsmore; graces, modesty, Ellen Nace; faith, Libby Davis; endurance, Annie Sargent; unselfishness, Ida Bowers; courage, Bertha Harrington. The present officers are: Oracle, Ellen Nace; recorder, Ida Scofield.

The present membership is 104 and meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, in the I. O. O. F. hall. The deceased members are: Louisa Nace, Hattie Bacon, Alice Howard, Edith Gardner, Rose Ball, Minnie Nelson, Elizabeth Pierce, John Davis, Ada Maye Cooly, Clara Matison, Otto Helgermann, Millie Frederick and Anna Goodrich.

#### STRAWBERRY POINT A. O. U. W.

The Strawberry Point Lodge, A. O. U. W., No. 131, received its charter October 15, 1877. The first officers were: P. M. W., J. H. Barney; J. F. Webb, M. W.; Frank Smith, G. F.; W. E. Little, O.;

Lyman Sherwood, recorder; Dan. C. Deane, financier; P. J. Clough, receiver; M. G. Webb, G.; J. T. Snyder, I.; W. D. Clough, O. W., and these were also the charter members. Last January the charter was surrendered and the members, thirty in number, scattered all over the United States, and it was transferred to Home Lodge, No. 3, of Des Moines.

### VOLGA CITY

Volga was one of the liveliest towns during the twentieth century, although its population remained almost stationary. In 1900, the new Catholic church was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, but in 1903, the town seems to have been torn by divisive strife for the secretary of the school district writes to the Elkader press explaining the finances and asking that all drop the quarrel which "has torn the town asunder." In November, 1903, the Milwaukee railroad began a series of retrenchments which seriously crippled the towns along the Volga branch. The telegraph office was taken out at Volga and the Mederville station was closed, Elkport being the only telegraph station on the line. This action was resented by the people and the service was later restored. The importance of Volga as a church center is shown by the fact that the Presbytery of Dubuque met there in April, 1912. The electric light franchise at Volga was given to Oscar Weisner in 1913, and in the following January the handsome new \$10,000 opera house was opened. This justly is the pride of Volga city and it is noted as one of the finest opera houses in the state for a city of Volga's size. C. E. Lovett was president and C. S. Adams, secretary of the opera house company. In September of 1914 the cornerstone of the new Methodist church at Volga was laid, Rev. Piper being the energetic pastor. This building was dedicated February 1, 1915. It is a handsome frame structure and was built at a cost of \$5,000. The progress of the little city was so marked that the county papers commented on the great improvements made in 1914-15.

Volga City was laid out in November, 1851, by W. H., Mary J., and A. L. Gould and an addition was made in 1857, by A. C. Woodward, one by M. M. Johnson, one in 1867, by Stephen Rush and one in 1877 by Henry White and others. W. H. Gould was the principal proprietor. He moved west in 1864, after selling most of his property to Henry White. The first frame house was built by Solomon Gould in 1851. The first hardware store was erected by George L. Tremain, who soon left. The first blacksmith was James Ambrose who started in 1854. Alvah Bevins bought the saw mill of Gould and erected the grist mill, in 1857. The first physician was J. L. Dunn. The first persons interred in the Volga cemetery were two children of Henry Gifford in 1846. The first school was taught by Nancy Finch, in 1855. The first hotel was kept by S. Harvey. The first livery was started in 1869, by J. F. Jersey. James Hawthorne started the first creamery in 1879. The first postmaster was W. H. Gould in 1851.

Volga City was incorporated in 1896 with the following officers: Mayor, J. D. Welch, clerk, O. R. Brooks; councilmen, John Burnes, E. W. White, C. Massey, W. F. Mungren, A. C. Keeling and N. Phillips. It is now a beautiful town of 500 inhabitants. The present

city officers are: Mayor, Otto Germar; clerk, Fred Susie; councilmen, J. J. Burns, E. C. Becker, V. F. Blake, F. I. Phillips, Fred Rinkert. The city has electric lights furnished by A. Wiesner, the plant being located on the Volga river at the old White mill site. On August 21st, 1916, a bond issue of \$14,000 was voted for water works purposes. There is a stone school building of four rooms in charge of Superintendent Walker Merriman. One of the main institutions of the town is the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery. This was established in 1893 and now has 200 patrons. Adam Olinger is president and L. J. Tenney is secretary. The Volga City News is a live local paper and one of the youngest in the county, having been established in 1915 by K. J. Konzen, the present editor. All lines of business are well represented, the streets are wide with many handsome shade trees and lined with pretty homes. Robert W. Duff is the postmaster. There are three churches, Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic, and three fraternal organizations.

The Presbyterian Church of Volga was organized in about the year of 1884. The exact date cannot be obtained as the records were burned a few years later. It was a union of two branches of the church. In the early fifties a number of Scotchmen came to Highland township from Pittsburgh, Pa., and they established what is known as the United Presbyterian Church. Later, another Presbyterian congregation was formed, known as the American branch. This congregation held meetings in the old Union Church which is now known as Perkins' Blacksmith Shop. During the ministry of Rev. Campbell the branches united and became a part of the Dubuque Presbytery. The present church edifice was erected in 1900 during the ministry of Rev. McClusky. The value of the church property including manse is \$9,000; membership, 128. Officers; Pastor, Rev. Richard Roberts; elders, William Robert, Thomas Duff, William P. White, Fred Keeling, Morris Blake; deacons, John Roberts, William Smith, Albert Duff, Elmer Sorg. The Sunday school has a membership of 128 and Mrs. Morris Blake is superintendent. There is a live Christian Endeavor Society and an energetic Ladies' Aid Society of which Mrs. F. Pruess is president. This is the only Presbyterian church in Clayton county.

#### ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

White Rose Camp No. 5513 was organized March 29, 1908, with 14 charter members. First officers were: Oracle, Mrs. Germar; Recorder, Grace Rinkert; Receiver, Jessie Meyers; Chancellor, Mrs. Thoday. Blanch White is the present Oracle and Martha Duff, Recorder. The membership is 42 and meetings are held on the second and last Tuesdays of each month at the opera house.

#### BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMAN

Volge Lodge No. 304 was instituted June 23, 1899, with 29 members. The first Foreman was C. S. Adam, and the Correspondent, Joy O. Bradley. There have been six deaths since its organization, and at present the membership is 22.



## M. E. CHURCH OF VOLGA CITY, IOWA.

The first Methodist sermon in Volga was preached by Rev. Brier in 1849, and the first class was formed in the fall of the same year by Rev. Kelley, who followed Mr. Brier, consisting of seven members. The Elkader circuit or mission was organized in 1851, which included Volga. Rev. J. G. Whitford, a pioneer preacher of Volga, was the first pastor, assisted by Rev. Sydney Woods. The first Board of Trustees consisted of J. E. Smith, F. F. Goodwin, W. W. Goodwin, John Welch, Samuel Fitch, William Harvey and J. G. Whitford, of whom J. E. Smith, of Long Beach, Cal., is the only survivor. In 1864 a lot was purchased and a church built, consisting of one room and afterwards a vestibule and tower and bell were added. The first cost of the church was \$1,588.65. It was dedicated January 21, 1866. The first Sunday school was organized by Rev. Ferris in 1874. Mr. F. F. Goodwin, superintendent; Anna Libby, organist.

In the year 1887 the church had increased in membership so that it was decided to have preaching every Sunday and support a minister, so the church withdrew from the Elkader charge. A parsonage was purchased and afterwards sold and a new one built on the lot next to the church. The congregation increased and outgrew the old church and in 1914, under the pastorate of Rev. Piper, a new church was started and dedicated January 31, 1915. The value of the church was \$12,000. It consists of an Epworth League room, main auditorium, vestibule and basement under the whole. There are three large windows, one in memory of Rev. J. G. Whitford, the money being given by those whom he had married in the years gone by, money coming from California, Texas, Minnesota, Idaho and many other states where his memory is dear to those who knew him. The Epworth League and Ladies' Aid each placed the other two windows.

There is a large Sunday school with an average attendance of 106; Mr. A. Boleyn, superintendent. The Ladies' Aid numbers some sixty members. At present Rev. Neilson is pastor. The board consists of A. Boleyn, president; C. E. Lovett, E. Clark, Mrs. Lucy Goodwin, Mrs. Clara White, Mrs. Maggie Boleyn, Mrs. Ambrose, W. J. Susie, Delos Crain, Mrs. Ethel Crain, S. Whitford, J. Jellings, Ruth Smith, H. Humphrey, H. Jennings, George Linder and A. Perkins. The membership of the church is 170. Mrs. Mary Adams' was the first funeral held in the old church. The first funeral held in the new church was that of Mrs. Thomas Smith on Christmas day, 1915.

## CHAPTER XV

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### BANKS AND BANKING WITH BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OF CLAYTON COUNTY.

THE first constitution of the State of Iowa absolutely prohibited banks of any kind. This constitution was not ratified by Congress, however, and was never in effect. The early experiences of the settlers with banks were unfortunate. In too many instances banks invited confidence only to betray. Under President Jackson, the old National Bank System was abandoned and in its place there sprang up a large number of state and private banks which issued currency based on fictitious asset and which soon fell below par. Again, interest rates in the new country were very high and difficult to pay. The majority of transactions among the pioneers were those of barter and trade and the farmer found little difficulty in raising enough to feed his family and to provide for his simple wants. When it came to raising cash, however, it was a difficult matter and the man who became involved in debt was often unable to pay out. This engendered the feelings which resulted in this prohibition of all banks.

However, as the country became more settled, business increased and men became more forehanded the necessity for banks became apparent and they grew as a natural outcome of business conditions. The first bank in Clayton County was that of Lee and Kinnaird at McGregor, although there were others who had doubtless done a quasi banking business. This bank was established in the early fifties during the palmy days when McGregor was a grain market rivaled in the west only by Chicago and St. Louis. It assisted in financing the first efforts to build the McGregor and Western Railway and was of great benefit to the thriving community. The so-called wildcat currency made banking an extra hazardous business and when the panic of 1857 came this bank, in common with all others, was hard hit. It weathered the storm, however, for the time being, but the effects of the panic were too severe for it and it succumbed in 1861. While this was a great blow to McGregor's business interests there was not a question raised as to the personal integrity of the bankers and the feeling was only one of regret that they had been forced to the wall. In the meantime a state bank, a branch of the Bank of Iowa, had been organized at McGregor and in 1863 this bank incorporated under the National Bank Law and is thus entitled to be called the oldest bank in the county. The history of Clayton County banking is remarkable. This one failure of Lee and Kinnaird is the only bank failure the

county has known. During all the financial storms which have afflicted the country, the banks of Clayton County have stood unmoved and unquestioned. Iowa has the largest number of automobiles per capita of any state in the union and Clayton County has the largest number of automobiles per capita of any county in Iowa. Exact statistics are not at hand, but it is probable that Clayton County has the largest number of banks per capita of any county in the United States. There is an average of one bank to each voting precinct, or one to about every one thousand inhabitants. Among the distinguished men who have been connected with the banks of Clayton County are two governors of the State, Governor Samuel Merrill and Governor William Larrabee. The Larrabee interests were represented at Elkader, McGregor and other towns of the county. At present the banks of the county are housed in handsome and substantial buildings, have large deposits and command the full confidence of the people. The stock is held by a large number of people and Clayton County is able to finance any legitimate enterprise within its borders.

Among the banks of the county are the following, in the order of their establishment:

*First National Bank of McGregor*—Was chartered under the National Bank Act, December 19, 1863, capital \$100,000. Incorporators were: Samuel Merrill, afterwards Governor of Iowa; Porter M. Potter, Henry B. Carter, J. H. Merrill, Oley Hulverson, H. E. Newell, W. I. Gilchrist, E. V. Carter and J. L. Dearborn. The first officers were: Samuel Merrill, president; Oley Hulverson, cashier; directors, E. V. Carter, Oley Hulverson and J. L. Dearborn.

In 1868 the Merrill interests were bought by J. K. Graves of Dubuque, Iowa, and a little later taken over by William Larrabee, later Governor of Iowa, and his brother, Frank Larrabee, who continued control until after the Governor's death in 1912, when the present owners absorbed all the Larrabee interests.

The present capital is \$50,000. Surplus \$12,500. Officers: W. F. Daubenger, president; C. J. Weiser, first vice president; Henry Reeves, second vice president, and F. S. Richards, cashier. Deposits: 1863, \$85,000; 1870, \$140,000; 1880, \$150,000; 1890, \$180,000; 1900, \$185,000; 1910, \$270,000; 1916, \$420,000.

*First National Bank of Elkader*—Incorporated April 18, 1871, chartered May 11, 1871, capital \$50,000. Incorporators were H. B. Carter, S. T. Woodward, Ann M. Larrabee, William Larrabee, R. A. Richardson, Harriet H. Carter, Esther A. Woodward, J. A. Hysham, Isaac Havens, Caroline C. Crosby, John Linton, Frank Larrabee, George Hertrich, Mary J. Granger, Milo P. Clark, A. D. Cook, F. H. Carter, Timothy Davis, Sarah M. Larrabee and H. S. Granger. The first officers were H. B. Carter, president; R. A. Richardson, vice president; F. H. Carter, cashier. Succeeding presidents were William Larrabee and R. E. Price, and succeeding cashiers, E. V. Carter, Henry Meyer and A. J. Carpenter.

Deposits: 1872, \$29,500; 1880, \$53,000; 1890, \$73,000; 1900, \$123,000; 1910, \$408,000; 1916, \$553,000. The capital is \$50,000, surplus \$25,000, undivided profits \$26,000. The bank has paid 340 per cent in dividends.

*Strawberry Point State Bank*—The first bank established in Straw-



berry Point was a private bank by George W. Lovell and Captain Carpenter, bankers of Monticello, Iowa, in 1872. In 1873 Mr. Carpenter sold his interest in the business and the name of the bank was changed to Lovell & Corbett's Bank. The bank continued under this name until 1883, when it was organized as a corporate bank under the laws of the State of Iowa. The organization was perfected June 22, 1883. The incorporators were: G. W. Lovell, T. F. Corbett, F. R. Buckley, J. C. Westfall, H. N. Wood, Walker Pollard, J. C. Barnes, Parke Buckley, Frank J. Newberry, David F. Merritt, Ozias Clark, L. L. Noble, L. R. Noble, D. H. Taylor, Wiltse Brothers, W. R. Morley and B. W. Newberry. The name as designated in the articles of incorporation was Strawberry Point Bank. Afterwards, on July 30, 1898, to conform to a recently enacted statute, the word State was inserted and the name became Strawberry Point State Bank, which is its present name. The duration fixed in the articles of incorporation was twenty years. June, 1903, the incorporation was renewed for another twenty years.

The first board of directors was composed of seven members as follows: J. C. Barnes, F. R. Buckley, T. F. Corbett, G. W. Lovell, B. W. Newberry, Walker Pollard and J. C. Westfall; the first officers were G. W. Lovell, president; B. W. Newberry, vice president; L. F. Carrier, cashier. G. W. Lovell continued as president for 12 years; J. C. Westfall succeeded him as president and remained so until the latter's death, which occurred March 24, 1900. B. W. Newberry held the office of vice president until the death of Mr. Westfall and was then elected as president and continued as such officer for seven years, being succeeded by Chas. Roberts, who served as president until January, 1912. At this time L. W. Preston was elected and served for two years, when the incumbent, J. C. Flenniken, was elected. The position of vice president has been filled by B. W. Newberry, L. F. Carrier, T. Dunning, W. F. Reinecke and George F. Wheeler.

For more than 30 years Mr. L. F. Carrier occupied a position in the bank as cashier, assistant cashier, vice president and director. He is now living in retirement at the age of ninety years, one of Strawberry Point's most worthy citizens. The present cashier, William F. Reinecke, and the assistant cashier, R. C. Barnes, have had the active management of the bank since 1910. The bank is one of the largest financial institutions of the county and was the third incorporated bank organized in the county. The bank stock is largely in the hands of local residents, only 95 shares out of the 500 being held by non-residents. The present board of directors are J. R. Alderson, R. C. Barnes, J. P. Dunsmore, J. C. Flenniken, Fred Pebler, L. W. Preston, William F. Reinecke, Hy. Sheldon, G. F. Wheeler. The present officers are J. C. Flenniken, president; G. F. Wheeler, vice president; William F. Reinecke, cashier; R. C. Barnes, assistant cashier. The deposits are \$409,000, capital \$50,000, and surplus \$29,000.

The bank built a stone building in 1873, which has been its quarters ever since, no changes having been made except to provide additional vault and storage room. Plans have been drawn for extensive improvements, doubling the size of its quarters and putting in such modern equipment and fixtures as will make it the finest and most

convenient bank in the county. The charter of this bank has been twice extended, in 1891 and 1911.

*Elkader State Bank*—Incorporated August 2, 1892, and commenced business October 1, 1892. Capital \$50,000. Incorporators, D. D. Murphy, H. C. Bishop, F. J. Uriell, Ole Johnson, Sr., August Borman, H. G. McGahren, F. D. Bayless, H. H. Hagensick and Christ Beer. First officers, H. H. Hagensick, president; D. D. Murphy, vice president; H. S. McGahren, cashier. Deposits: 1900, \$200,000; 1910, \$475,000; 1916, \$575,000. The bank was re-incorporated in 1912 and J. F. Becker is the present cashier, the other officers being the same as at the time of incorporation. In 1900 a three-story brick building was erected by the bank, in which are located its offices, storerooms, and the Masonic Hall. In 1915-16 the bank offices were doubled in size and entirely refinished and provided with fixtures of East Indian mahogany, with safety deposit boxes, fine vaults, private rooms for customers and directors and a handsome lobby.

*Monona State Bank*—Incorporated May 2, 1892, capital \$25,000. Incorporators, A. M. Davis, W. C. McNeil, John Killen, F. W. Roberts, Frank Hupfer and G. L. Gilbert. First officers, A. M. Davis, president; John Killen, vice president; F. M. Orr, cashier. Deposits, 1900, \$81,700; 1910, \$216,000; 1916, \$396,000. Present capital \$40,000, surplus \$10,000. F. M. Orr is now president, Melvin Davis vice president, and H. T. Orr, cashier. Its charter was renewed in 1912 and in 1914 a fine new bank building was erected on the corner of Page and Center streets, at a cost of \$23,000.

*Guttenberg State Bank*—Incorporated May 1, 1900, capital \$25,000. Incorporators, J. P. Eckart, Henry Eckart, Sr., John Wolter, Thomas S. Ives, Henry Brandt and James E. Corlett. First officers, Thomas Ives, president; John Wolter, vice president, J. P. Eckart, cashier, and Henry Eckart, John Wolter, Thomas S. Ives, Henry Brandt and J. E. Corlett, directors. Deposits: 1910, \$334,393.85; 1916, \$399,470.40. Present officers: Henry Eckart, Sr., president; T. S. Ives, vice president; J. P. Eckart, cashier; O. B. Eckart, assistant cashier. Immediately after organizing the bank erected a modern building. It is a two-story structure of pressed brick, has steam heat, waterworks, electric lights and is modern in all respects.

*Farmersburg Savings Bank*—Organized January 12, 1903, and began business August 21, 1903. Capital, \$15,000. First officers: John Everall, Sr., president; J. H. Splies, vice president; W. J. Mitchell, cashier, and John Everall, Sr., W. F. Fuelling, H. W. Thompson, W. W. Bulman, J. H. Splies, Frantz Hertrich and G. H. Schulte, directors. In July, 1914, the capital was increased to \$40,000 and the bank has 73 stockholders. Present officers: John Everall, Sr., president; W. F. Fuelling, vice president; L. W. Thompson, cashier, and John Everall, Sr., W. F. Fuelling, H. W. Thompson, Gottlieb Zurcher, H. W. Oelke, Lillian L. Schulte and Herman Werger, directors.

*State Bank of McGregor*—Incorporated 1903, capital \$25,000. Incorporators and first officers were: W. F. Daubenberger, J. F. Daubenberger and J. A. Ramage. Present officers: J. F. Daubenberger, president; Chas. F. Kramer, vice president and J. A. Ramage, cashier. Deposits: 1903, \$37,093.64; 1910, \$186,649.70; 1912, \$236,397.70.

*Garnavillo Savings Bank*—Incorporated 1904, capital \$10,000. First and present officers: William F. Meyer, president; J. A. Hempler, vice president, and Chas. Roggman, cashier. First directors: Henry Brandt, Henry Dettmer, J. P. Eckart, J. A. Hempler, E. W. Kregel, William F. Meyer, and Henry Schalke.

In 1907 the capital was increased to \$20,000. Present surplus, \$20,000. Profits \$12,700. Deposits: 1905, \$46,000; 1910, \$347,000; 1916, \$398,000. Present directors: W. M. Allyn, Jr., Henry Brandt, J. A. Hempler, H. C. Kuenzel, H. D. Kregel, William F. Meyer and H. Schalke.

*State Bank of Edgewood*—Incorporated March 1, 1905. Capital 25,000. Incorporators: Lewis Blanchard, Chas. Blanchard, L. B. Blanchard, J. W. Forward and F. A. Densmore. First officers; Lewis Blanchard, president; L. B. Blanchard, vice president; J. W. Forward, cashier; Chas. Blanchard, assistant cashier. Present officers the same except that F. T. Pilkington is vice president. Deposits, 1916, \$120,000.

In 1908 the bank erected a fine two-story building at a cost of \$10,000, it being considered one of the best bank buildings in northeastern Iowa for a town of the size of Edgewood.

*First National Bank, Strawberry Point*—Incorporated March 17, 1908. Capital \$25,000. Incorporators: Alfred Hanson, F. J. Gressler, L. Glass, Chas. Chambers, J. F. Cole, H. H. Opperman, A. M. Odell, Fred Glass, C. H. Neiderfrank, M. F. Harwood and J. F. Cole, M. D. First officers: A. Hanson, president; A. O. Kingsley, vice president; F. J. Gressler, cashier. Present officers: A. Hanson, president; H. H. Opperman, vice president; M. F. Harwood, cashier. Directors, the officers and F. Glass, L. Glass, J. C. Ludy, C. D. Walcott, C. H. Neiderfrank and William Blanchard. Deposits: 1910, \$123,000; 1916, \$240,000. Surplus, \$6,000.

Joined the Federal Reserve Bank in February, 1914, and became a depository for postal savings. The bank installed electric ledger posting machine November 1, 1915, and it is in every way equipped to meet the demands of its customers.

*Luana Savings Bank*—Incorporated April 30, 1908. Commenced business October 12, 1908. Capital, \$10,000. Incorporators: J. F. Miller, G. F. Lindroth, James Humphrey, R. J. Stoehr, Fred Palas, H. L. Knuth, W. J. Splies, F. H. Lindroth, H. Palas, L. Engelhardt, L. F. Oldag and Ed Ryan. First officers: R. J. Stoehr, president; J. F. Miller, vice president; W. J. Mitchell, cashier. Deposits: 1910, \$36,142; 1916, \$110,936. The bank has paid 89 per cent in dividends. Present capital, \$20,000, and officers, W. J. Mitchell, president; J. F. Miller, vice president; W. J. Splies, cashier.

*St. Olaf Savings Bank*—Incorporated January 9, 1908. Capital, \$15,000. Incorporators: J. F. Johnson, O. O. Johnson, D. D. Murphy, P. J. Cain, M. J. Uriell, J. J. Kann, J. F. Becker, H. H. Hagensick, K. K. Stearns, J. Christenson, K. H. Groth, Rev. N. Arveson, M. C. Holseth, C. M. J. Groulid, Theodore Eggen, F. K. Orvis, E. O. Glesne, P. T. Peterson, Nels B. Arveson, L. J. Palas, A. Jellum, T. Tollefson, A. T. Knudson, William Koth, O. M. Benson, A. O. Anderson, H. H. Diers, L. H. Thovson, C. Christianson and E. L. Embretson.

First officers: J. F. Johnson, president, J. Christenson, vice president; O. O. Johnson, cashier. E. Embretson has succeeded as vice



president. Deposits: 1910, \$74,000; 1916, \$150,000. Undivided profits, \$6,239.51. A new building with fine vaults and fixtures was erected in 1909.

*Elkport Savings Bank*—Was incorporated April 6, 1909, with a capital of \$10,000. From 1900 it had been operated as a private bank under the name of The Bank of Elkport. The organizers were B. D. Murphy, H. H. Hagensick, J. F. Becker, F. J. Urriell, P. J. Cain, J. J. Kann, F. J. Kriebs and George Kriebs. The first officers were: H. H. Hagensick, president; F. J. Kriebs, vice president; George Kriebs, cashier; Very L. Younkman, assistant cashier. Directors: B. D. Murphy, H. H. Hagensick, J. F. Becker, F. J. Urriell, P. J. Cain, F. J. Kriebs and George Kriebs. The ownership of this bank is largely identical with that of the State Bank of Elkader with which it is affiliated. In 1912 a fine brick building was erected and it has had a highly successful career. In May, 1909, the deposits were \$60,000. In 1910, \$74,000, in 1915, \$136,000, and in 1916, \$151,000. The officers and directors are the same as when the bank was incorporated.

*Farmers Savings Bank, Garber*—Incorporated October 1, 1909. Capital, \$10,000. Incorporators: M. W. Lovett, C. Schnepf, J. F. Adams, Robert A. Gill, William Hammond, E. C. Jennings, B. Hageman, H. Haack, A. C. Smith, B. A. Voss and H. C. Schnepf. First officers: M. W. Lovett, president; Conrad Schnepf, vice president; H. C. Schnepf, cashier. E. C. Jennings succeeded Conrad Schnepf as vice president. Deposits: 1910, \$16,255.74; 1916, \$79,239.53.

*Littleport Savings Bank*—Incorporated January 13, 1910. Capital, \$11,000. Incorporators, Newberry Bros., C. C. Pust, Chas. Roberts, J. J. Brich, J. C. Flenniken, E. L. Gifford, James Sullivan, S. M. Stalnaker, W. F. Reinecke, George Reugnitz, A. W. Hughes, Hy. Pust, F. C. H. Reimer, W. E. Meyer and Chas. Piehl. The first and present officers are: J. J. Brich, president; William F. Reinecke, vice president; E. L. Gifford, cashier. Directors: J. J. Brich, J. W. Meyer, A. W. Hughes, J. M. Pollard, E. C. Pust, J. C. Flenniken and Chas. W. Newberry. Deposits: 1911, \$67,050.42; 1914, \$94,768.91; 1916, \$122,511.87.

*Volga Savings Bank*—Incorporated December 24, 1910. Capital, \$15,000. Began business January 2, 1911. Incorporators: W. A. Smith and C. E. Lovett. First officers: W. A. Smith, president; C. E. Lovett, vice president; H. C. Andreae, cashier. Deposits, \$100,000. In 1912 the bank erected a handsome brick building. The present officers are W. A. Smith, president; Henry Jennings, vice president; H. C. Andreae, cashier.

*Clayton County Bank, Guttenberg*—Organized in 1910. Capital, \$25,000. Present surplus, \$20,000. The officers are Chas. E. Scholz, president; J. C. Kuempel, vice president; C. J. Adam, cashier; A. H. Jacobs, assistant.

*North McGregor Savings Bank*—Organized in 1910. Capital, \$10,000. Incorporators: J. J. Burke, Thos. Updegraff, F. S. Richards, D. S. Baird, J. M. Berry, G. H. Dahmen and W. R. Brown. First officers: F. S. Richards, president; M. E. Grady, vice president; Nels Arveson, cashier. Deposits: 1910, \$35,000; 1916, \$85,000. In the year 1914 the original stock interests were taken over by the present owners of the First National Bank of McGregor.

*Farmers State Bank, Volga*—Incorporated April 11, 1911, by James Hawthorne and James Crain. First officers: E. W. White, president; George Kriebs, vice president; H. W. White, cashier. Deposits: 1911, \$37,113.32; 1912, \$115,402.20; 1913, \$155,494.93; 1914, \$157,604.04; 1915, \$165,478.15; 1916, \$201,206.39. Capital, \$25,000. It is a member of the Iowa Bankers' Association and began business in May, 1911.

*Farmers Savings Bank, Edgewood*—Incorporated April 10, 1912. Capital, \$15,000. Incorporators: L. S. Fisher, C. H. Bassett, C. E. Ryan, A. Funk, Dock Coolidge, H. H. J. Fensterman and F. T. Pilkington. First officers: L. S. Fisher, president; A. Funk, vice president; H. W. Putz, cashier. Directors: C. H. Bassett, C. E. Ryan, F. T. Pilkington, A. Funk, L. S. Fisher, G. W. Fleming and J. F. Adams. Began business July, 1912, by which time a new bank building had been erected. Deposits: September, 1912, \$20,029.59; 1913, \$41,448.07; 1914, \$54,684.39; 1915, \$67,759.90; 1916, \$95,006.42. The present officers are: J. F. Adams, president; A. Funk, vice president; C. L. True, cashier; G. W. Fleming, assistant.

*Citizens State Bank, Monona*—Incorporated June 2, 1912. Capital, 25,000. First officers: W. H. Newling, president; August W. Lenth, vice president; John Killen, cashier; M. A. Killen, assistant. Directors: J. A. Briar, W. F. Humphrey, R. G. Kinsley, John Killen, W. H. Nelings, A. W. Lenth and C. H. Wiegand. Present officers: John Killen, president; A. W. Lenth, vice president; E. M. Fonda, cashier; M. A. Killen, assistant. Deposits, \$250,000. Surplus, \$2,000. This bank is located on the corner of Main and Center streets, where it has a handsome brick building, equipped with fireproof vaults, and the most modern fixtures.

*Farmers State Bank, St. Olaf*—Incorporated April 14, 1914, capital \$25,000, by F. K. Orvis, K. K. Stearns, Seth Clark and L. J. Palas. Officers are K. K. Stearns, president; F. K. Orvis, cashier. Directors: Seth Clark, W. H. Crary and Jacob Larson. Deposits, \$101,376.

*Clayton Savings Bank, Clayton*—Organized in 1915. Capital, \$10,000. First and present officers: J. A. Reis, president; W. M. Allyn, Jr., vice president; W. E. Gruver, cashier. The bank has been prosperous and is erecting a new building this year.

*Farmers State Bank, Garnaville*—Incorporated April 22, 1915. Officers: Dr. J. W. Rudek, president; A. N. Stickford, vice president; H. H. Kuhlman, cashier. Directors: J. W. Rudek, A. F. Kramer, W. F. Schumaker, A. N. Stickford, George Kuhlman, A. N. Crawford and C. A. Dettman. Began business May 4, 1915, and on May 4, 1916. Deposits were \$150,356.17. A new brick building is now being erected for the bank's home.





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CATHOLIC CHURCH, ELKADER

## CHAPTER XVI

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### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CLAYTON COUNTY

THE first white man to view the shore of Iowa and the first to set his foot upon the soil of Clayton county, was a priest of the Catholic church. And it is recorded that, as his Indian rowers urged the frail canoe over the broad waters of the Mississippi, he faced the Iowa shore and held on high the emblem of the cross. The mission of Father Marquette was one of peace and love and charity. He came not to subdue, nor to exploit but to tell the savages the story of Him crucified; the story which he loved so well, and faith in which had driven him to face the dangers and hardships of the wilderness. And thus, in truth, the history of the Catholic church in Clayton county begins in 1673. The only white man's religion known to the Indians was that of the Catholic church and many of them accepted it, and its teachings modified their savagery and undoubtedly, if they had been subjected to no other influences, save of such men as Father Marquette, the conquest of the Indians would have been a peaceful one. They would have been tamed and civilized and Christianized and, instead of becoming degraded outcasts, would have been a respected and honorable part of the American race, contributing to it their virtues instead of their vices, their strength instead of their weakness.

But it was the world-old struggle between the powers of good and the powers of evil and, so far as the Indians were concerned, the powers of evil won. The virtues of the white race touched the Indians only through their zealous missionaries of the Catholic church; the vices touched them at every hand through the greed and rapacity of traders and trappers. And again, the only restraining influence upon the trappers was their faint allegiance to Catholicism. It may be well imagined that these men, picked by these great trading companies, not for their virtues, but for their hardihood and craft, faring into the wilderness, without sight or knowledge of other white men, except those of their own party; a law unto themselves without any restraints of civilization; should be held lightly by religious ties. Nevertheless, every white man who set foot in Clayton county for more than half a century after the coming of Marquette, owed final allegiance to the Catholic church.

The Canadian voyageur was not all bad; he had the swift passions and the fierce temper of the autocrat, that he was, but he also had a vein of sentiment and of poetry, of loyalty and faith. Of all



the white men coming in contact with the Indian, the Frenchman was the most beloved and the most trusted, for, though urged by an adventurous spirit into the woody solitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, the emblem of the crucifix hung upon his breast, and, when dying, the words of "Pater Noster" were the last that lingered on his lips. With such a record and disposition it is not surprising that the church became firmly and suddenly established when and where these sturdy pioneers resolved to dwell. Many years before 1833, which may be set as the date when this county was first open to white settlement, there had been a Catholic church at Prairie du Chien and priests from that village undoubtedly looked after the spiritual wants of the few Catholics then in Clayton county. Among the earliest settlers many were of the Catholic faith. Whither they came from France or Ireland, their faith accompanied them, and no sooner had they reared their cabin homes and formed domestic ties, they immediately organized to erect a suitable place for the worship of God and the administration of the sacrament. Perhaps the earliest priest to celebrate mass in this county was Rev. Joseph Cretin. He came to Garnaville in 1840, from his residence in Dubuque and celebrated the mass in the log homes of the Catholic settlers. Father Cretin was one of the great missionaries of the Catholic church in the Upper Mississippi valley. He went from one tiny settlement to another, from Dubuque to the headwaters of the Mississippi, suffering all, and more, of the hardships of the pioneer, and doing it cheerfully and with happiness, for the sake of the joy he brought to others and for the honor of his beloved church. Later on he became the first bishop of St. Paul, a fitting recognition of his great worth and labor.

Among the early Catholic settlers at Garnaville were Mrs. Uriell and her three sons, Patrick, John and Michael; John Barrett, Casper Becker and William Schulte. Mass was celebrated in the home of John Barrett and William Schulte. By 1843 there were twenty families in this vicinity and they organized for the erection of a little chapel which they called St. Bridget's. This was the first church building in Clayton county. Having no regular appointed pastor mass was celebrated at irregular intervals whenever a priest could be obtained. Among the early priests of this church may be named Father Platt and Father Orth of New Vienna, Father Lynch of Holy Cross and Father Byrne of Elkader. It was Father Lynch who blessed the cemetery which contains the remains of so many Catholic pioneers. In 1860 the sacrament of confirmation was, for the first time, administered to the Garnaville congregation. This same year the pioneer church building was disposed of and another site purchased on which to erect a larger edifice. This new site originally belonged to the village of Garnaville and on it was laid the foundation for the public school. The project never maturing, on that foundation the present brick church was erected. In 1866, a building committee consisting of James Uriell, Frank Schulte, and Casper Becker was appointed. Under their leadership, and backed by the splendid coöperation of the congregation a handsome edifice costing \$6,500 was erected and this has been added to, from time to time, until it stands today as a monument to the zeal of these Catholic pioneers. Rev. Father Leussman

of Guttenberg, served as pastor until October, 1877, when Rev. John F. Kemker took charge, as the first resident priest. He remained until January 10, 1878, but during his short pastorage a modest parsonage costing \$1,000 was erected. For a year the church remained without a pastor when, January 17, 1879, Rev. Father P. O. Peschong was placed in charge.

In the meantime the church had not been idle in other localities. Guttenberg, or rather the site of Guttenberg was purchased by the Western Settlement Association, in 1847. Many of the German settlers were Catholics and it was a short time before they banded together for religious worship. By 1850, they had purchased a frame residence, with two lots, in the northern section of the town, owned by John Leonard. The purchase of the property, however, exhausted the resources of the little congregation, and it was some months before the necessary furniture and equipment could be provided. In March, 1851, however, the building was dedicated by Rev. Father G. H. Plate. Father Plate remained but a short time, being transferred to New Vienna and he was succeeded by Rev. Father Lentner. In August, 1851, the congregation was delighted with the gift of a bell made by Mr. Floeder of Cincinnati. This was undoubtedly the first church bell that rang out its messages of joy and sorrow to the people of Clayton county. It was the fourteenth of August, 1851, that the bell sent its message to devout Catholics of Guttenberg. The church rapidly outgrew its first quarters and in 1853, through the efforts of B. Biermann sufficient funds were raised to build a brick addition, 30x50 feet, to be used solely for church purposes. Rev. Father Lentner was succeeded by Rev. A. J. M. Schweiger and under his administration the new addition was dedicated and a tower proposed. But there was much work for the priests of those early days. Widely scattered settlements urgently demanded religious services and it was deemed the part of selfishness to allow one parish a resident priest while many would-be parishes went without. Thus, during summer months, the priests went from settlement to settlement and remained with the more settled parishes during the winter months when roads were impassable. For some time the Guttenberg church had, therefore, a pastor but at intervals.

The coming of Rev. William Edmonds, who stopped with the congregation for a few months, in 1853, was followed by an event of great interest and spiritual value to the Catholics of this congregation. Rev. F. X. Wenninger of the order of the Jesuits, came to Guttenberg and held one of the greatest missions ever held in this county. The little church was entirely too small to hold the congregation which came to hear him. A cross was erected, and in the open air, for days he proclaimed to the people the doctrines of the church. His preaching was effectual and the benefit enduring. In 1854, under the direction of Rev. H. Remsen a tower was added, proclaiming to the wayfarer on the Mississippi that the church of Marquette had found a permanent home upon the land which he discovered. Among the priests, after July, 1854, there came in the following order, Rev. M. Lynch, Rev. W. Edmonds, Rev. Philip Laurent, Rev. M. James Orth, and Rev. Frederick Hannash. During the pastorate of Rev. Hannash,

Peter Roth donated two lots for the erection of a school house. Work was begun on the school in 1859 and was completed in 1860. This was a stone building two stories high. Rev. Herderer succeeded Rev. Hannash in 1861, and he was succeeded by Rev. Conrad Schulte who was pastor until 1867. During these years the school had a precarious existence owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable teachers. In 1865, an organization was formed but though continued for several years nothing was accomplished because the people were divided as to location. This unfortunate division begot factions, causing many sincere Catholics to leave for other posts. The pastor then in charge was Rev. Father Massjost. In 1870, sisters of the Perpetual Adoration from La Crosse took charge of the school. In the same year a pipe organ, built by Liborius Keller, a member of the congregation, was added to the church. Rev. Father Luehrsmann succeeded Father Massjost in 1874. Under his charge the cornerstone of a new church was laid and in a comparatively brief time the structure was brought to completion. The actual work of building restored harmony to the congregation and all labored faithfully for the erection of the imposing stone structure which was dedicated in the fall of 1874. In 1875 the old church was torn down and the serviceable material used in the erection of a residence for the sisters. Rev. F. V. Boeding followed Rev. Leuhrsmann, in 1878. This priest labored faithfully but his health became affected by the malaria which followed the flood of 1880 and in 1882 he was removed for the benefit of his health. He was succeeded by Rev. J. B. Albers who served as pastor for seven years and in turn was succeeded by Rev. Joseph H. Brinkmann, the present worthy and energetic pastor. In 1894 a handsome brick school building was built, containing, on the first floor, four school rooms and on the second floor assembly room for the church societies. In 1899, a substantial brick parsonage was added and in 1902 excavation was made for a new church building to cost not less than \$20,000 and this building was rapidly pushed to completion by the zealous members of the congregation. It is a fine structure of pressed brick, the auditorium having a seating capacity of 800. The church was dedicated by the Most Reverend John J. Keane, Archbishop of Dubuque. Reverend Joseph H. Brinkmann was then in charge of the church and has been until this date, 1916. He is dearly beloved by his people and has made this one of the most religious bodies of the county.

Even before the town of Elkader was laid out and named after the brave Arab chief, religious services were held for the Catholics of that community. Rev. Michael Lynch of Holy Cross was perhaps the first priest to attend to their spiritual needs. Later came Fathers William Edmonds, Phillip Laurent, Frederick Orth, Louis DeCailly and R. Nagel. The first mass was celebrated by Father Lynch on what was later known as the David Livingood corner. The first baptism is that of Julia Anna Barrett, by Father Edmonds, March 6, 1855. In 1856, Rev. Peter McGinnis was stationed at the Elkader mission and he at once began the work of establishing a permanent church home. The records of the Catholic almanac and directory give the following as to Elkader: "Elkader, Nativity of Our Blessed Lady; 40 acres of land;



church in contemplation." Concerning the other churches of the county the almanac says: "Guttenberg, Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Virgin (German) five town lots and a graveyard; a fine brick church and a good school. There will be a priest stationed in short. Garnavillo, St. Bridget, Irish and German; frame church on two lots—attended from Guttenberg. Beuna Vista—Saint Mary Magdalene, attended from Holy Cross. Monona—St. Richards, forty acres of land—attended by Rev. Phillip Laurent."

The handsome little stone church built during the pastorage of Father McGinnis is still standing and is a monument to the good workmanship of the day. It was not completed until 1868. Father McGinnis was succeeded April 8th, 1861, by Rev. Michael O'Brien who remained until his death November 26, 1867. His remains were buried in the old church, but, in 1899, they were removed to St. Joseph's cemetery. During his pastorate, a small parsonage was built and ground for the cemetery was purchased.

Rev. J. J. Quigley came to the church December 14th, 1867, dying September 11th, 1887. This period of twenty years witnessed a great growth in the church property and in the numbers and wealth of the congregation. His first efforts were for the establishment of a school. The church records at Dubuque for August 26th, 1868, contain the following entry: "Sister Mary Chlotilde and companion go to Elkader tomorrow and Sister Mary Ildephonse is to accompany them." The school was thus established, but without an adequate home until 1870, when a school building was erected at a cost of \$4,000. Through the ceaseless efforts of Father Quigley, the parochial residence was enlarged, and, in 1876, the beautiful chimes of three bells were added at a cost of \$1,800. These bells surpassed in size any then possessed in the state. Rev. Father J. F. Reilly took charge of the parish upon the death of Father Quigley. To him the burden seemed too great, as his physical health was not the best. Yet for nearly thirty years, he has not failed in his earnest way to labor for the spiritual welfare of his charge. He has earned the affectionate esteem of Catholic and non-Catholic, and he has at all times been a power for good in the community, preserving harmony and standing for the best in the life of the church and of the city.

We find the following in the public press relating to the dedication of the new church erected by him in 1898: "In 1897, agitation was commenced for the erection of a new church as the old one was found to be inadequate. The matter was canvassed and a building committee composed of P. J. Cain, Ed. Hofer, Wm. Bauer, James Foran and N. Fitzpatrick was appointed. Guido Beck of Dubuque was the architect and the beauty of the double Gothic structure as it stands today is a monument to his ability. Thos. Byrnes, who built the Elkader stone arch bridge and the Hotel Bayless was the contractor. The amount of the contract was \$12,800. The cornerstone was laid April 24, 1897, in the presence of about 1,500 people. The Foresters, led by F. J. Uriell and D. D. Murphy, marched to the site of the church and the ceremony was conducted by Father Rowe of Strawberry Point, assisted by Fathers Dollard of Elkport, O'Donnell of McGregor, O'Dowd of Independence, Raedler of Garnavillo and Hogan of

Monona. The oration was delivered by Rev. Father Coyle of Cedar Falls. The church was dedicated on Thanksgiving day, 1899, Very Rev. Monsignor Ryan representing the archbishop and Rev. J. Fitzpatrick of Dubuque preaching the dedicatory sermon. The church is a solid stone structure of native rock, the Gothic style of architecture is well carried out. The main body of the church is fifty-five feet wide by eighty-five feet long, the extreme length being one hundred sixteen feet, the tower rises one hundred forty-two feet from the water table on the top of the cross which surmounts it. The seating capacity is over five hundred and twenty. With the beautiful living green of the hills for a background, the church stands with its graceful and symmetrical outlines as a great gray monument to the loyalty and devotion of the Catholics of Elkader. The interior is in keeping and the entire church property is one of which the people may well be proud.

Rev. J. F. Reilly was born in Ohio in 1854. His parents later moved to Kentucky and there he lived as a youth. He was educated in the classical course in Lenox College and at St. Joseph's College, Bardstown, Kentucky, and also at St. Joseph's College at Dubuque. He made his seminary course in Montreal, Canada, and in Dubuque. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1881 and his first charge was at Harper's Ferry. He was assigned to McGregor in 1884 and to Elkader, September 13th, 1887. His congregation is now in a prosperous condition. The school is well attended and of high standard. The congregation is large and united and the church property well maintained and cared for.

The history of the church at McGregor is equally interesting. For many years the first Catholic settlers at McGregor's Landing were cared for spiritually by the priests at Prairie du Chien. Rev. Father DeCailly was the first resident priest at McGregor and the first baptismal ceremony was performed by him on May 7th, 1857. Rev. Richard Nagel succeeded him in July, 1858. He lived for a brief time near Monona and attended the parishes at McGregor, Monona, Elkader, Postville and other places. There being no church at McGregor, mass being celebrated in private homes. Through his efforts a frame church building was erected and a parsonage purchased, and he became the first resident pastor. He was succeeded in 1868 by Father B. C. Lenihan. Father Nagel was pastor during the most exciting and turbulent days of McGregor's history, and there are numerous instances recorded of his splendid work for the maintenance of law and order and public decency. He antagonized the rougher elements of the city and more than once his life was threatened, but he went his way fearing no man and the terror of evil doers.

Father Lenihan, afterward recognized as one of the leaders of the Catholic church in Iowa, purchased a parsonage on ground donated by James McGregor, Jr. He also erected a school and a home for the sisters in charge. Sisters of Charity were secured from Dubuque and a parochial school was opened. Father Sullivan succeeded him in 1873, and during his pastorate the present rectory was built. Father D. H. Murphy became pastor in the year of 1875, and in 1876 was followed by the Rev. M. O. Carroll. In 1878, in one of McGregor's many fires, the church was totally destroyed. There being no insur-

ance on the building the loss was well nigh irreparable. Efforts were at once made to rebuild, but from 1878 until 1881 the congregation was without a church and mass was celebrated in the school. These were gloomy days in the history of the McGregor church. The school was closed and the sisters returned to their mother house in Dubuque. Rev. Carroll was succeeded, in 1879, by Rev. T. D. Brennan and, in 1880, Rev. Garrett D. Nagel assumed charge. Under his energetic administration the present church was begun in 1881. The building committee consisted of Charles Budde, John Corts, Joseph Andres, T. J. Sullivan, Louis Budde and Arthur Dunn. In 1884, Father Nagel was able to leave McGregor with the handsome structure which occupies such a commanding position at the head of Main Street, completed and free from debt. He was succeeded by Rev. J. F. Reilly, who was with the church for three years, during which time the Sisters were recalled and the school was reopened. During his pastorate the interior of the church was remodelled. Father Charles Carroll was pastor from 1887 to 1891. During his regime the church was gutted by fire at the noon hour on Christmas day. Under his direction the interior was restored and beautiful fresco work added. At this time St. Mary's academy was established. Father Curran was the next pastor, remaining but a few months. Father O'Donnell came to the church in 1891 and was its well beloved pastor until his death in 1908. Through lack of support the school was again abandoned. Father Lundon was pastor from 1908 to 1911 when he was succeeded by Rev. Thos. Dowling. His efficiency and zeal were marked from his first taking charge. He was succeeded by Rev. J. F. Horsefield May 10th, 1916, and he is the present popular pastor of the church.

Another of the older churches of the county is that at Monona. In March, 1856, a number of the Catholics of the vicinity met and organized for the purpose of erecting a church. The building committee consisted of Michael Humphrey, Denis O'Leary, Richard Humphrey, Patrick Geraghty and James Humphrey, and in May, 1856, under the supervision of Father DeCailly a frame structure, twenty-four by forty was erected. In 1869, this little pioneer structure was replaced by the present handsome brick building. Father Richard Nagel was the first pastor, from 1857 to 1858. After his time the church was attended by pastors of McGregor, until 1873, when Father Toner became its second resident pastor, followed by Father Brady. Thence, until 1884, it was served by pastors of McGregor. In that year it secured its own pastor in the person of Rev. Michael Hennessey who served it from 1884 until 1887. From that date until 1893 its rectorship was filled by two brothers, Father James F. Corbett and Father Patrick Corbett. In 1893 Rev. M. Hogan was assigned to the charge. For a number of years he served at Postville also, as an outside mission. During his administration a fine parochial school was built at a cost of \$20,000 and a flourishing school established. The church property as a whole is one of the finest in the county, and the congregation is in the best condition of unity and strength. In July, 1916, he was transferred to the church at Greene, Iowa. Just prior to his departure he was the recipient of signal honors, when all of the



citizens of Monona, regardless of creed, gathered to bid him Godspeed and to express their appreciation of his twenty-three years of splendid service. His broadmindedness and his kindly heart endeared him to all the people. The city park was the scene of the gathering numbering more than a thousand people. A union choir furnished the music, Mayor Geo. H. Otis presided and a large and handsome silver loving cup, and other gifts, were presented to him in an eloquent address by Attorney Delbert W. Meier.

Among the other churches of the county is the Cox Creek church, built in 1875 at the cost of \$2,000. Rev. M. J. Quirk was the first pastor and it was through his efforts that the church was built. Services prior to that time were held in private houses. Among the priests in attendance were Fathers Lynch, McGinnis, Nagel, O'Brien, and Quigley. Michael Carr gave the land upon which the church was built and among those active in erecting the church were James Byrnes, E. Ollinger, B. Dillon, James Ivory, T. Glenning and John Dunn. Succeeding pastors were Fathers Coyle, Hackett, and Rowe. At this time the church of Cox Creek served the people of the southwestern part of the county, but in 1878, Father Hackett was commissioned by the Bishop to organize a congregation and build a church at Strawberry Point. A frame church thirty by sixty was complete by 1879 and in 1880 a parsonage was also erected. The church was dedicated May 23d, 1880, Rev. Dr. Dailey of Richardsville delivering the sermon. Father Hackett was succeeded in 1881 by Father Rowe who had charge of the churches at Strawberry Point, Greeley and Cox Creek.

The church at Clayton was erected in 1870 at a cost of \$2,000. Until 1885 it was attended from Garnavillo. From that date to 1891 it was attended from McGregor, since which time it has again been dependent on Garnavillo. The Sacred Heart Church of Volga was built in 1898. Rev. John Daly was the first resident pastor, under whose pastorate the parsonage was added. His successors were Rev. Thos. Campbell, Rev. M. Erdley, Rev. Curran and Rev. Garland. The present pastor is Rev. A. Hetherington and during his ten years of office the congregation has grown numerically and financially. The value of the church property is not less than \$15,000.

The church at Elkport was organized by Father Michael Lynch about 1850. Services at first were held at residences and then only a few times a year. After this time it was attended from Guttenberg by Fathers Schoulte and Massjost. The first church edifice was a frame building built in 1863. This was replaced by a stone structure in 1874 and later a substantial parsonage was added. Father Michael Gaul laid the foundation of the present rock church. He was succeeded by Father M. J. Quirk who was the first resident pastor and who completed the church and built a parochial residence. In 1875 Rev. B. Coyle was appointed his successor. For nine years he labored in his spiritual calling for the uplift morally and religiously of all. To all he was a debtor that to all he might be a benefit. Tall, slender, attractive in appearance, gentle in his manner and in speech most clear and persuasive, his ministration was most successful and his memory held in benediction. He was followed by the Rev. J. Fogarty in 1882, by Rev. P. Corbett in 1884, by Rev. M. Shehan in 1887, by Rev. E.

Dollard in 1903 and by Rev. D. Minogue in 1908. Rev. D. Minogue is still its pastor. He has made many improvements in the temporal affairs of the congregation but no one of them can be enduring because of the unfortunate location of church and residence. Situated on the bank at the junction of Elk creek and Turkey river, church and house have frequently suffered great damage by floods and inundations. The muddy waters have sometimes entered them to the height of five or more feet. He is seriously thinking of applying a remedy which will be in the nature of selecting a new location.

The church of Buena Vista is a recent formation. Until 1912 it had been attended from Holy Cross, Dubuque county, and until 1915 from Dubuque. In 1915 a parochial residence was erected and now is in possession of Rev. Father Holthaus as resident pastor.

There is no question but that the Catholic church of the county has exerted a great influence for good and that, in the earnestness and zeal of its pioneer missionaries and of its pastors and in the self sacrifice, devotion and generosity of its people, it has well sustained the great heritage which it received at the hands of Pere Marquette.

Rev. Thos. Rowe became pastor at Strawberry Point in July, 1881. The charge comprised Edgewood, Greeley and Cox Creek. Most faithfully did he serve his flock down to the time of his death, which occurred in July, 1904. Not alone was he revered by those of his own creed, but those of other creeds whose fortune it was to know him, will transmit to other generations their appreciation of him. To his efforts many of the material improvements that these several missions now possess are due. He was succeeded by Rev. J. Hartigan. It was during his regime that there occurred those regrettable religious differences which disturbed the peace of the county for a time but which now, fortunately, have yielded before a broader spirit of Christian charity and tolerance. Rev. Hartigan remained in charge until 1914, when he was succeeded in rapid succession by Fathers Ireland, Reynolds and Casey. Father Casey is now in charge and by his prudence bids fair to restore harmony and fraternal charity.

*Elk Creek  
Dubuque County  
1881*





## CHAPTER XVII

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### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF CLAYTON COUNTY'S MOST NOTED MEN

HON. E. H. WILLIAMS—HON. S. MURDOCK—HON. ELIPHALET PRICE—  
HON. TIMOTHY DAVIS—HORACE D. BRONSON—ELISHA BOARDMAN—  
ALEXANDER M'GREGOR—GOVERNOR SAMUEL MERRILL—MAJOR E. V.  
CARTER—DR. SAMUEL LITTLE—HON. M. URIELL.

IN PRECEDING chapters mention has been made of the passing of many of the pioneers and well-known figures in Clayton county's history. There have been reserved for this chapter, however, a few more lengthy biographies of some of the men whom the county has been delighted to honor and who, in their lives, reflected honor upon it. The majority of these sketches were written by loving and sorrowing friends at the time of the subject's death, and they have been copied just as written at the time by those who knew them best. They may be taken, therefore, as Clayton county's own tribute to its own.

*Hon. Elias H. Williams* was born in the State of Connecticut, on the 23d day of July, 1819, and is both on the side of his father and mother descended from a long line of noble and respectable ancestors, who were among the most ardent patriots of the American Revolution, and who suffered greatly from the raids of the notorious Arnold and other British commanders on the soil of Connecticut. His father died when he was quite a youth, leaving his mother to take care of and educate her children, and being a lady of talent and great mental power, she determined to give her sons a first-class education, and as soon as the subject of this sketch was of proper age she sent him to Yale College, where she kept and maintained him until he graduated with the highest honors, and soon after receiving his diploma he spent one year in New Hampshire as a teacher of languages; and he then made a journey to South Carolina, where he was also for some time engaged in teaching and reading law; and it was while residing here and seeing the degrading effects of human slavery, that he imbibed the feeling of hatred and disgust toward that institution, that shone forth in after years in the most fervent and eloquent speeches for its overthrow. He soon found that, with his ideas of justice and human liberty, South Carolina was no place for him, and hearing of the new territory whose shores were washed by two of the greatest rivers of

the globe, he turned his footsteps toward Iowa, and in 1846 he arrived in Clayton county, and settled at Garnavillo.

At this time the county had but few inhabitants; but as he looked and wandered over the broad and fertile prairies, he saw that these must in a short time invite the emigrants, and be settled by a thriving and industrious population, and here he determined to make his future home. In addition to other attainments, he had acquired a fine legal education, and he soon began to practice, and in a short time established a good practice and a high reputation as a scholar and a lawyer. The practice of the law soon proved too slow, too confining and too irksome for his disposition, and being possessed of an iron constitution, a strong physical frame, with a strong desire for manual exercise, he left his profession, entered a large tract of land near Garnavillo, and with the labor of his own hands soon converted it into a beautiful and productive farm. On this farm he was an incessant laborer, and however cold or stormy might be the day or the hour, he could be seen at his work, until he had made himself a competence, and provided a good home for his widowed mother and his brothers and sisters; and though elevations and honors were showered upon him in after years, yet it is doubtful whether they brought to him the pride, or satisfaction that he enjoyed, when one day he looked over the beautiful farm, the work of his own hands, saw it completed, and his mother and brothers and sisters enjoying themselves in ease and luxury and beyond the reach of want. Never did a mother idolize a son more than that mother did him, and never did a son work harder or later to gratify her every wish and comfort; and when all the surroundings of that once happy home and family were grouped together, it presented a picture of domestic felicity worthy of the attention of the philosopher, and perhaps the highest, the greatest, and the most gratifying the human mind is capable of conceiving.

In 1851 he was elected the first county judge under the new system of county government, and this not only included all the county affairs, but the probate of estates, in addition; and when he assumed the duties of the office all these three branches of county affairs were in a bad and deplorable condition, but he began his work with that determined will which has ever characterized him, and in a short time he paid off old and outstanding debts, levied a just system of taxes, laid out new roads and built bridges, and at the end of four years he handed over to his successor the whole county government in a redeemed and prosperous condition, and again returned to his farm, honored and respected by the people for his able management of their public affairs. In 1849 he was married in his native State to Hannah Larabee, sister to the Hon. William Larabee, of Fayette county, and a descendant of an old family of that State, who took an active part on the side of America in all the great struggles of the great revolution, and this amiable, accomplished and talented woman has been his adviser, his comforter and helper in all his trials and hardships for more than a third of a century. Two sons and two daughters, now grown up to age and maturity have been born to them, and these children they have raised and educated in all accomplishments that the county and money could afford.

In 1858 he was elected District Judge of the Tenth Judicial District of Iowa, and re-elected again in 1862, and during these eight years he presided over the courts of the district with credit and honor; and it was here that he gained that wide reputation through the state which he still retains, of being a profound jurist, an able lawyer and a finished scholar. In 1870 he was appointed by the Governor of Iowa, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, and in this position he served but a short time, when he retired from law and politics, to turn his attention to the building of railroads; but while on the supreme bench his written opinions and judicial decisions were models of learning, brevity and research.

Soon after leaving the supreme bench he conceived and originated a plan for the construction of a railroad from Dubuque, along the west bank of the Mississippi river to St. Paul, with the main branch up and along the valley of the Turkey, via Mankato, to the Northern Pacific Railroad; upon announcing his scheme to the public, it was looked upon as visionary and impossible, but he threw the full force of his determined will and character into the scheme, and in a short time he had the satisfaction of being the first man to break ground on the enterprise which afterward became the Chicago, Dubuque & Minnesota Railroad, and it is to his energy, will and perseverance that Northern Iowa and Minnesota are indebted for that magnificent line of road that follows the Father of Waters from Clinton to St. Paul. To avoid heavy grades, as well as to shorten the route from Chicago and Dubuque to the great Northwest, his plan was to follow the valley of the Turkey as a through and main line, but in this he was overruled. Dubuque lost heavily by the change, and the road still climbs the heavy grades, and pursues the longest and most unprofitable routes to the same points. He stayed by this enterprise until he saw it completed under his own eyes to Guttenberg, when he left it, and organized the "Iowa Eastern" Narrow Gauge Company, whose purpose was to build a road from McGregor, in a southwesterly direction, through Iowa's coal fields to the Missouri. His energy and perseverance soon raised the desired funds, and he again broke ground upon the new enterprise, and rapidly pushed it forward from Beulah for a distance of sixteen miles, when all of a sudden a financial panic fell upon the country, his backers failed, and he was left to struggle as he could with a large floating debt hanging over his enterprise, and its creditors pursuing him at every turn. He had sold his beautiful farm at Garnavillo, and had invested the proceeds in a large tract of land in Grand Meadow Township, and this he had soon brought to a high state of cultivation, and adorned and embellished it in a magnificent manner, and this fine home and farm he put in jeopardy to save his fair name and fame as a man of honor and integrity, until at last he found himself upon the very verge of ruin and poverty.

He was the author, the originator and the president of the enterprise and when the crash came, with all its terrible effects, its creditors met him without compassion at every turn, and demanded their full share from the ruins of a blasted enterprise; and, to add to his crushed and tender feelings, many of his former friends deserted him, and left him to struggle alone under a pressure that was enough to



break and shatter the strongest mind ever possessed by a human being. In all these struggles he never lost sight of his honor and integrity, and he made every effort, offered every assurance within his power and command, to appease and stay the demands, but all to no purpose; suit after suit was brought, judgments, with multiplied executions were issued, and his own private property seized to satisfy the demands against the company. There was a time during this terrible pressure upon him when a few of his friends might have come to his support, and by even their countenances and assurances, and without the aid of money, could have given such confidence to his enterprise, as would have pushed it along on its route, every mile of which would have restored confidence, allayed the demands of creditors, paid them in the end, and completed the enterprise; but these were not forthcoming, and with all this load upon his shoulders, he kept his sixteen miles of road in good condition, and through storm and sunshine his trains made their regular trips along the route with their freight and passengers until the present season when he sold the road with all its franchises and incumbrances to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, and retired once more to his farm.

In conjunction with his brother he began the construction of another railroad from Lancaster, Wis., running in a northwesterly direction to Woodman Junction with C. M. & St. P. R. R.; and after completing a portion of the road, he sold out his interest, and from the sales of both roads he has probably saved his large and extensive farm, which still leaves him a competence, and a peaceful retreat in his declining years. When the Missouri Compromise was repealed, and the South had threatened to plant her slave colonies on free soil, he was among the very first men of America to protest against the encroachment, and among the first to call together a body of men for the purpose of forming an organization against the demands of the slaveholder's power, and from that day to the present he has stood by that organization. As a profound lawyer, an able and upright judge, as a finished scholar and a public man, his name and his public works will ever be connected with the history of the State and his county, in a high and in an honorable manner; and as he has still many years of usefulness before him, we will leave him in the hands of those whom he has served so long and well, to do him more ample justice in the future.

*Hon. Samuel Murdock*—As the shades of night began to gather at 5 o'clock Tuesday evening, January 27, 1897, the light of life departed from Clayton County's grand old man, Hon. Samuel Murdock, of this place. On Sunday, November 1, while at Buena Vista, where he had gone to make a political address, Mr. Murdock was stricken with paralysis. He came home the next day, but being in his 80th year, there has been constant wearing out until the darkness of death closed in upon the eyes of one of the brightest brains of our county. For more than half a century Mr. Murdock has been a conspicuous personage in Iowa, as the first lawyer of our county, the first judge of the Tenth Judicial District, and as being one of the few survivors of the territorial legislature of Iowa.

His parents were of Scotch ancestry, but were born in County

Armagh, Ireland. They emigrated to America in 1812, settling near Pittsburgh, Pa. Here near the scene of Braddock's defeat was born the subject of this sketch, March 13, 1817. Ten years later the family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and located on a little farm in the town of Rockport. Here it was that the boy grew to manhood, receiving such education as the common schools of that day afforded, although later he attended a two-year's term in the Cleveland Academy. After arriving at his majority he taught several terms of school in Ohio. In his youthful years he became acquainted with the Hon. Reuben Wood, at that time one of the supreme judges of Ohio, and who afterwards became governor. With this family the lad lived several years, and is indebted to the worthy judge for many of his early lessons in history and law. In the fall of 1841 he left Ohio for the west, going by way of the lakes to Chicago. After remaining a few days he started out to cross the country to Rock river, sometimes on foot and other times in wagons drawn by oxen. On reaching Rock river he followed it to Rock Island, and then crossed the Mississippi to the small town of Davenport. After resting a few days to recruit his strength, he shouldered his pack and started on foot across the country on an Indian trail most of the way, for Iowa City. As that place had been fixed as the future capital of Iowa the young man determined to make his abode there, and was soon pursuing his study in the law office of Bates & Harrison. This firm dissolving in a few months he entered the office of Hon. Gilman Folsome, and in 1842 he was admitted to the bar of Johnson County.

Before finally locating, young Murdock determined to visit Dubuque, having letters of introduction to some of her principal citizens, among them Hons. T. S. Wilson, Stephen Hempsted, Timothy Davis and Thomas Rogers, all of whom have gone to another shore. It was while at Dubuque that he heard of the rich prairies of Clayton County, and starting out in company with John Thomas, of Prairie du Chien with Dr. Fred Andros as guide, he arrived at Jacksonville, now Garnavillo, on the 9th day of August, 1843. Taken with the natural beauty of the locality he determined to make it his home, and with this intention staked out a claim one and a half miles south on Section 29. This farm for thirty-five years he adorned and embellished with the fir, the spruce and the pine, and from their numbers and luxurious growth, the farm was called the "Evergreens." From the time he began work on this farm to last fall, Judge Murdock has been with his voice, pen and labor disseminating useful information on the subjects of agriculture and horticulture. In 1845 he was united in marriage with Miss Louise Patch, who had come to the county from New York in 1837.

Mr. Murdock was the first lawyer who permanently settled north of Dubuque, and during his long residence on the farm he maintained his law practice. In 1845 he was elected a member of the territorial legislature from the counties of Dubuque, Delaware and Clayton, and remained in that body until Iowa passed into a state, and while in this body was mainly instrumental in securing for the state her present northern boundary. In 1848 he was elected School Fund Commissioner, which he held four years, during which time he sold most of the school lands, consisting of Section 16 and the county's portion of

the 500,000 acres donated for school purposes. In 1855 he was elected the first district judge of the Tenth Judicial District, which at that time included ten counties, and in several of these counties he held the first courts, and through this large district he traveled twice each year, generally on horse back, swimming rivers and wading sloughs, and accompanied by a number of attorneys. To this day these journeys form the theme of many a pleasing story among the older members of the bar of Northern Iowa. During the war he visited the Gulf states and was prominent as a correspondent of several Iowa newspapers. In 1864 he was retained as an attorney for Hon. James Andrews, of Columbia, Tenn., who had been condemned to imprisonment for the killing of a soldier of a Michigan regiment. Mr. Murdock obtained a hearing and argued the case before President Lincoln and Mr. Andrews was set at liberty.

In 1869 he was elected a member of the Thirteenth General Assembly, in which he distinguished himself in a speech opposing the repeal of the death penalty for the crime of murder. His arguments have since been proven true many times over. In the summer of 1869 he unearthed the "Hagerty Murder," one of the most cruel murders of modern times, in which, single-handed, he brought to light no less than five dead bodies, after they had been hidden away for over eight months, and he pursued the murderer until he lodged him in the penitentiary for life. Judge Murdock has been a successful lawyer and has been on one side or the other in the most important cases in our courts up to within a year or more.

He was selected by the governor to fill Iowa's department of anthropology at the centennial, and although the notice was a short one, yet in a few months he collected and shipped to Philadelphia some of the most curious and wonderful specimens of prehistoric man that had ever been unearthed on this continent. Although the collection was small yet it received from the historian of the Centennial the only compliment paid to Iowa for her part in the great show. Some time in 1876 Judge Murdock sold his farm at Garnavillo and moved to Elkader, forming a law partnership with the late John Larkin which continued for several years. On September 11, 1895, Judge and Mrs. Murdock celebrated their golden wedding, at which many friends testified to their feelings of honor and respect to the venerable judge and his companion.

*Hon. Eliphalet Price.*—I first met Eliphalet Price in early life upon the border, where the civilized and savage commingled to pursue a common road, and for more than a third of a century he was my neighbor and my friend, and what I have here to say over past life is but a tribute I owe to his distinguished worth. He saw the country from the great lakes to the Pacific Ocean a barren wilderness, and peopled alone by the hunter and the savage, and he saw the same territory rapidly converted into states and farms and fertile gardens; and establishing over all a government and a civilization based upon the principles of exact justice and self-government, the greatest and perhaps the grandest the world ever saw. In nearly all of this development of empire, of human progress, settlement and western civilization, with all their attendant excitements, turmoils and passions, our



old friend was an ever constant, prominent and untiring worker, and to write the history of such a man, to do justice to his name and memory, and to carry him through all the varied scenes and struggles of the last half century of western life, in which he was connected, would require volumes.

He was born in Jersey City, in the state of New Jersey, on the 31st day of January, 1811, and as he grew up he received from his father the rudiments of a common education, and when about eighteen years of age his father took him to New York City and bound him as an apprentice to learn the trade of a painter. This old relic of feudal times, called master and servant, still forms one of the chapters of the law of "domestic relations," and although it has nearly vanished from western civilization, it still clings with force to the institutions of the older states, and at the time of which we speak it was in its full force and rigor in the state and city of New York, and as often made the pretense for the very worst acts of tyranny and oppression by the master over the apprentice. Here, however, was a field for the genius of our friend and he soon accomplished a thorough organization of all the apprentices of the city into a strong society, with a constitution and by-laws that taught the most tyrannical master that they had rights which he was bound to respect. This society soon raised a sum of money with which they purchased a fine library of all the leading works of that day, and it was here that our old friend laid the foundation of that classical and historical knowledge which made him famous in after years as a writer and a scholar of no ordinary capacity. Vicissitude and misfortune, however, overtook his old master and he absolved young Price from his indenture, and this threw him upon the world to make his own way through life.

About the beginning of the year 1831 he arrived in the city of Philadelphia, and became the local editor of a paper called the Market Exchange, and in this capacity he soon brought himself into notice by his witty and spicy articles, many of which are more witty and mirthful than those of Ward or Nasby. But he soon tired of this work, and, looking over for wider fields for his talent, in the fall of that year he repaired to Washington city. He left Washington some time in 1832, with the design of seeing the far west and exploring the valley of the Mississippi; traveled on foot to Pittsburgh, and after recruiting his wearied limbs, embarked on a steamer for Cincinnati. After remaining in this city for a short time he took passage on a steamer for New Orleans, and when he arrived in the latter city he found a large number of its inhabitants stricken down with cholera. Here for the first time since he left New York he found himself among strangers, without a cent in his pocket, with a dangerous and fatal disease raging around him. He repaired to the wharf in hopes of finding some craft that would take him beyond the limits of that scourge. At the wharf he found a steamer with her clerk on shore checking goods that were being shipped upon her, and upon inquiry the clerk informed him that they were loading for the lead mines of Galena, and requested him to take his place at the plank and check for him a few moments while he procured a little medicine from a neighboring drug store.

This he gladly did, and very soon the captain of the boat came

along and discovered that his clerk was absent and a new man in his place, when he immediately followed his clerk to the drug store, only to find that he had just died of the fearful disease. Returning in a few moments to his boat he immediately engaged the services of our lamented friend as his clerk for the trip. Never was a service more gladly accepted or more faithfully performed, and in due time we find our young friend in Galena looking about for some vocation that would give him a living. But to him in his youthful days, "fields always looked greener when they were far away," and he turned his steps toward Iowa, arriving in Dubuque some time in the fall of 1832. It will be remembered that on the 21st of September, 1832, the Sac and Fox Indians had ceded to the United States a strip of land about fifty miles wide, extending from the Missouri to Little Iowa. This treaty was to take effect on the first day of June, 1833, but as soon as the terms of it were known hundreds of men rushed across the great river, took up claims and began prospecting in the lead mines of Dubuque. The Indians protested against this inroad, and General Zac. Taylor, who was the commanding officer at Fort Crawford, and who was afterward elected President of the United States, was ordered to proceed to the purchase and drive out the settlers. This order he executed to the letter, and our old friend with others was compelled to leave the territory. Like all the others, he hung upon the border, and on the expiration of the time he returned to Dubuque, and was among the first white men who made a legal settlement within the limits of what is now the great State of Iowa.

In the fall of 1834 he, in company with a party of hunters, explored the valley of the Turkey, and being enraptured with its romantic scenery, its rich and fertile prairies and its rippling stream, he determined to make the valley his future and permanent home. Returning to Dubuque to fulfill a contract he had entered into with Father Mazzuchelli to build for him a Catholic church, he again, in the fall of 1835, returned to the valley of the Turkey, and, in company with C. S. Edson, a person well known to old settlers of Clayton, spent the first winter near the town now called Osterdock. In the winter of 1836 a Mr. Finly erected a sawmill on the Little Turkey, near the present town of Millville. He shortly afterward sold out his mill and his claim to Robert Hetfield and Mr. Price. In the erection of this pioneer sawmill, Joseph Quigley, still living in Highland, was the millwright, and Luther Patch, still living and now residing in Elkader, was the sawyer. After a time Price sold out his interest in the mill, selected for himself a beautiful and fertile tract of land on the north side of the Turkey, about five miles from Millville, and on this he built his cabin.

In 1839 he married Miss Mary D. Cottle, a lady of culture, education, and refinement, and his equal in liberality and hospitality. Here upon his farm they raised a family of eight children, five of whom are still living. Two of these, R. E. and T. C. Price, now reside in Elkader; another son is now the postmaster at Colorado Springs, Colo., and still another resides in San Jose, Cal. One of his sons fell at the battle of Tupelo, and another son, a major of the Eighth Iowa Cavalry, was wounded at the battle of Fort Donelson and afterward died of

his wounds. His amiable wife died in 1865 and he never married again, but with his youngest daughter, who still lives in Colorado, he kept the younger portion of his household together to the last. During his long residence of thirty-eight years in our county he always took an active and prominent part in State and county politics, and in the management and organization of parties he had no peer in the State of Iowa. In early times he was an ardent Whig, but upon the repeal of the Missouri Compromise he threw his whole soul and action into the Republican party, and was among the very first, with voice and pen, to arouse the people against the strides and encroachments of the slaveholder. When the rebellion broke out he took an active part in the organization of military companies, encouraged his sons to draw the sword, and from the beginning to the end of the great war his voice and pen was never idle in the cause of the Union.

In 1845 he wrote and published the thrilling and melancholy story of the "Mysterious Grave," founded upon no fact whatever, and from the statement that these words, "Erin, an exile, bequeaths thee his blessing," was found in the grave, the story was copied into Irish papers, and many a poor Irish mother wept over it as perhaps the grave of a lost and wandering son. But perhaps his most successful story, one that called forth the greatest and most numerous encomiums, and one that was read at every camp fire in the army, and in every cottage wherever the English language was spoken, is the "Drummer Boy." It was published in the Chicago Daily Tribune, and for tenderness of expression, for ingenuity of theme, for elegance of style and diction, for converting the ideal into reality, for chaining the reader's attention and calling from him emotions of sympathy and patriotism, for the ease of deception and for its perfect and consummate delusion, it is his masterpiece. No one doubted but that the story was true, and the poor little "Drummer Boy," like Charlie Ross, was found in every village and hamlet in the land.

He took an active part in the organization of Clayton County, and held the first justice court within its limits. He was the first clerk of the Board of Clayton County Commissioners, was elected the first School Fund Commissioner, and served one term as a Judge of Probate. In 1850 he took the United States census of the counties of Clayton, Fayette, Winneshiek and Allamakee.

In 1850 he was elected from the counties of Clayton, Fayette, Winneshiek and Allamakee to the State Legislature, and it was at this session that he brought himself into notice as one of the most skillful and sagacious politicians of the State. He took an active part in this Legislature, in the organization of the school system of the State, and to his actions and suggestions we are today indebted for some of our best laws relating to schools. For many successive terms he was elected Governor of the Lobby, and that body received from him an annual message, that for keen wit and withering sarcasm has never been excelled.

In 1852 he was appointed by President Fillmore as receiver of the land office at Des Moines, and held the office during that administration. In 1855 he was elected Judge of the County Court of Clayton County, and held the office for two years. During his term in this



office he resurveyed the roads of the county, established guide posts and mile posts among them, remodeled the county records, and gave names to the streams and townships. When his term expired he had the satisfaction of seeing his county's records and her finances established on a safe and permanent basis, to become a foundation for those who followed him for all time. He left every official position that he ever occupied with clean hands, and with a reputation for honesty, capability and fairness. In the fall of 1864 he followed the brave General Hatch through all his military raids in Mississippi, and was an eyewitness of all the battles and skirmishes this general had with the rebel General Forrest.

He was for many years the president of the Old Settlers and Pioneers' Association of the county, organized the first meeting, and delivered before it one of the finest and most eloquent speeches of his lifetime. Long before any railroad had reached any part of the great west, he called the people of the county together at a mass meeting in Guttentberg, to discuss the propriety of giving aid to a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and in his opening speech before that meeting he declared with the most prophetic vision that he would live to see Clayton County checkered with railroads, and this he accomplished with some years to spare. Shortly after this meeting he made another speech to a few of the old settlers at Littleport, in which he said: "There are men in this audience, as well as myself, who will live to see a railroad passing up the Volga," and after the road up this stream was completed he wrote to the author of this article from Colorado saying in reference to it: "My dream is fulfilled, my prophecy has come to pass, and my mission will soon be ended, but Clayton County, hail!"

One can hardly realize that giant form that towered among us so long, that mingled in all our conventions, railroad meetings, county seat courts, balls, parties and routs, is gone forever, and that his voice and pen, which once stirred the thoughts and hearts of thousands, are now silent forever. Kind, courteous and social to all, whether rich or poor, his sympathies were aroused to the highest pitch at distress and sorrow, and he was at your service, while his money flowed like water. The priest and the layman, the tramp and the trader, the lawyer and the farmer, the rich and the poor, all found a home and a resting place at his house and a seat at his table. Ill health at last forced him to take refuge in the Rocky Mountains, and in the year 1872 he sold his homestead, took the younger members of the family, and departed for Colorado, leaving behind him the scenes of his early triumphs, exploits, associations and hardships, upon which his eyes were never to rest again. In Colorado he began the same career which characterized him in his early days in Clayton County, and with the vigor of his youth he visited the camps of her miners, ascended her highest mountains, looked down upon her widespread plains, and with his voice and pen contributed to add to her greatness and her resources. But old age and disease were fast destroying his stalwart frame, and when the fatal hour had come his death was like the blowing out of a candle.

*Hon. Timothy Davis.*—This well-known pioneer of Clayton County was born in Utica, N. Y., in 1794. His parents had emigrated thither

and carved out a home among the wilds of that then new country. It was then that Mr. Davis acquired those habits of industry and frugality which ever accompanied him through life. Inheriting a strong physical constitution, and imbued in early life with pluck and energy, he was well prepared in after life to meet and battle with the world. While yet a young man he left his native State, and after traversing much of this western country, he settled in the town of West Madrid, Mo., but afterward removed to St. Genevieve, Mo., at that time the capital of Louisiana Territory, embracing all of the country west of the lakes. St. Louis at that time was a small village compared with St. Genevieve.

At St. Genevieve Mr. Davis began the practice of law, a profession for which he was evidently well calculated. Here he married, in 1823, Miss Nancy Wilson, and here his oldest son, L. V. Davis, was born. After several years' residence at St. Genevieve, during which time he took a conspicuous part in the politics of the day, he removed to St. Mary's, a town which he had himself laid out, where he remained until his removal to Dubuque in 1836. While in Missouri he was a candidate for the legislature on the Whig ticket, but that party being in the minority, he was defeated. A like fate befell him some years after, when he was nominated by his party at Dubuque for a similar position. He was then thoroughly conversant, as he was up to the time of his death, with the political questions of the day, and his acknowledged abilities as a speaker and debater made him sought for on all public occasions.

One of the principal events of his life, and one to which his friends point with pride, was on the occasion of the timber suits in 1850, the particulars of which the old residents well remember. A number of settlers had been indicted and arrested for cutting timber on Government lands, and Mr. Davis, assisted by Platt Smith, Esq., of Dubuque, defended the cause of the settlers. It was a matter in which everybody in the Northwest was deeply interested. Almost everybody, including prominent men, made a practice of cutting and using Government timber, and it may well be imagined that when the prosecutions began there was an intense excitement that pervaded not only Dubuque but the entire Northwest. Indignation meetings were held and the newspapers were filled with exciting discussions on the subject. Mr. Davis rose to the full appreciation of his task as an attorney and as a defender of the rights of the people. In his speech on the occasion he referred to the injustice of the prosecutions in the most impressive and pathetic manner, and when he alluded to the fact that the Government would have to tear up the floors of the business houses, the seats in the churches and school houses and even the boards of which the coffins had been made, and which were constructed of timber taken from Government land, he certainly struck the most tender cord of popular sentiment; and the result was an entire acquittal of the arrested parties, and immense rejoicings among the sturdy old settlers in which Mr. Davis was rightly the hero of the day. Mr. Davis was engaged in many other important suits, among which were several mining cases which excited equal interest and made him conspicuous among the bar of the country.

In 1857 he was nominated for Congress by the Republican party and elected by a handsome majority. The State was then divided into but two Congressional districts, and Mr. Davis had a large constituency to represent. Though then advanced in years he was a prominent member of the House, and his voice and vote was ever on the right side. He had been an ardent Whig, but when that party dissolved and the encroachments of the slave power rallied the Republican party of the North into existence he became one of its first adherents, and firmly and steadfastly defended the cause of freedom. Mr. Davis, however, was not a mere politician. He identified himself with all the substantial interests of the country, and a full sketch of his life would contain a history of Northern Iowa. The settlement and development of Elkader originated with him. He was on a political tour through Clayton in 1845, and had come to Turkey River, to the present townsite of Elkader, where he found Elisha Boardman, who showed him the magnificent water power and the beautiful townsite. Impressed with its beauty and importance, he returned to Dubuque and soon after laid the matter before Messrs. Thompson and Sage, the latter of whom was sent up by Mr. Thompson to inspect the mill site. He returned equally pleased with it, and the result was that the property was bought of Mr. Boardman, and the building of the mill began the following year. The honor of naming the town fell to Mr. Davis. At that time there was great excitement about the exploits of the Arabian chief, Abdel Kader, and being an admirer of that daring chieftain, Mr. Davis named this place Elkader. He was identified with its interests up to the time of his death. To him it was always the best place in the State. It had the best mill, the best stores, the best society and the best newspapers. He was always a warm defender when Elkader was assailed, and he lived to see the home of his adoption rise from the wilderness to one of the most important towns north of Dubuque. In 1854 he removed from Dubuque to Elkader, remaining there till 1857, but after the death of Mrs. Davis, in the spring of that year, he returned to Dubuque. In the fall of 1857 he was married to Mrs. Jane B. O'Farrell, with whom he lived happily until his death. A few years after his second marriage, he determined that he could not stay away from Elkader, so he moved back, built himself a fine residence, and passed his last years in the sunshine of his old friends and amidst those nearest and dearest to him.

He died Sunday, April 27, 1872. He was sitting on the porch of his residence, engaged in a lively conversation with John Thompson, his surviving partner, joking and laughing with him over old reminiscences, when he suddenly fell back in his chair, threw up his hands with an exclamation of "Oh!" and immediately expired. Mr. Thompson held him in the chair until the family came to his assistance, and with their aid carried him into the house. The funeral ceremonies took place the following Tuesday, and a large concourse of people followed his remains to the grave. The business houses were all closed and sorrow pervaded the whole community. He lived a life of usefulness to himself and fellow men, and was an active worker for the development and prosperity of his country. The State lost in him one of her



choicest intellects, the community an exemplary citizen, and his be-reaved wife and children an affectionate husband and kind father.

*Horace D. Bronson.*—Horace D. Bronson was born at Chatham, Conn., December 25, 1797. When he was quite young his parents moved to Vermont. He was married at an early age to an estimable lady of New York. Shortly after his marriage he removed with his family and effects to Canada, and there kept a hotel for a number of years. At the age of thirty-nine he and his old friend, Elisha Boardman, came to the State of Iowa, then the Territory of Wisconsin. Here in the valley of Turkey River, "Uncle" Bronson and Elisha Boardman made claim to a large tract of government land and laid out the site for the town of Elkader.

The old house that formerly stood where the depot building now stands and an old house torn down in 1870 that stood near the house of P. Garaghty were built by these two pioneers, and for many years served as dwelling places for them, and as places of refuge from troubles by Indians for many a pale-faced adventurer. Uncle Bronson was known for miles around, and noted for his kindness and hospitality, even among the Indians. In 1838 he prevailed on his parents to move hither, but shortly after their arrival his father was delivered from all troubles and dangers by the hand of death, and was buried in the neighborhood of Garnavillo. His mother survived the death of her husband some eight years, and then she, too, followed him to the grave. At death they were both very old people. When Uncle Bronson had arrived at the age of fifty-eight years his wife died.

For fifteen or twenty years Mr. Bronson was coroner of the county, and, strange to say, he was sometimes elected to office by one party and sometimes by the other, party politics never affecting him in the least. He died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Tupper, Wednesday, April 19, 1876, at the age of seventy-nine years. For many months previous to his death he had suffered with lung trouble, attended with a distressing cough; this, together with the infirmities incident to old age, released him from the troubles and cares of life, and his spirit has gone to that bourne beyond the waters. A large concourse of citizens paid the last token of respect to his memory by following his remains to their final resting place the day of the funeral. The services were held in the Universalist church, Rev. Henry Gifford, an old pioneer friend of the deceased, officiating. And thus passed away another landmark of the early history of Clayton County, a pioneer who was here at the beginning, when it "tried men's souls" to battle with the hardships they had to encounter in effecting the early settlements that were the foundation of the glorious State of Iowa.

*Elisha Boardman.*—This early pioneer of Clayton County and Boardman Township was born at Princeton, Conn., October 25, 1781, six days after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, amidst the rejoicing of the American colonies. When quite young his parents died, and he went to live with his grandparents, where he remained until sixteen years old. Then, with an older brother, he went to Grand Isle, Vt., where, by his untiring energy and industry, he accumulated considerable property, married an estimable woman, and had a daughter born to him. At the age of about fifty his wife died. He

never married again. The daughter married a man of the same name, had two children, and then died. Now, left alone, Mr. Boardman invested a large share of his property in the lumber business in Canada with H. D. Bronson. He got together over a million feet of lumber in the St. Lawrence river, and started for market. In a violent storm all was wrecked. He lost every foot of his lumber. Returning to his old Grand Isle home, with his property nearly all gone, he concluded that the star empire was westward. With his friend Bronson he came to Green Bay, Wis., whence he went to Chicago. Here, in speculation with sharpers, he lost \$300 of his hard earnings. Returning to Green Bay, to his friend Bronson, they held counsel and concluded to follow the star still further westward. Falling in company with a Mr. Hastings, they procured two yokes of oxen and a wagon, with which Mr. Bronson and family started across the country for Prairie du Chien. Mr. Boardman and Mr. Hastings went to the head waters of Wisconsin River, there dug out a canoe, and sailed down the Mississippi and over to Iowa. This was in 1836, soon after the Black Hawk war. Each intent on securing a mill site, came to Turkey river. Hastings found a good site at the mouth of Otter creek, where the town of Elgin now stands and commenced the erection of a sawmill. He soon was driven off, finding himself on the Indian reservation. Mr. Boardman came down to where Elkader now stands, made his claim and built his cabin where the depot now stands. Here he and his old friend Bronson lived together many years. Uncle Bronson was a good millwright. They found a small creek in Boardman Grove, running down through Clayton Center, and emptying into Pony creek just above its mouth. On this stream they put up a sawmill. It was on section 16, the geographical center of Clayton County, near John Barrett's. The mill was finished, the machinery all put in, and everything ready to start. In the evening a log was put upon a carriage with a view of starting next morning with ceremonies befitting the introduction of a grand enterprise in a new world. Morning came. The dam and mill machinery and logs were all there, but the water was gone! It had escaped through the crevices of the rock and could never be brought back again so as to be made to turn a wheel. The stream or hollow now goes by the name of Dry Mill Creek.

One might naturally suppose, with all these reverses he would have been discouraged. But his energy of mind caused him to rise above the tide of reverses. He now returned to his cabin on Turkey River and prepared to break the soil, but another calamity lay in wait for him. The Indians stole one yoke of his oxen. Unable to break his claim with the team left, he went down by the river where it was sandy, plowed thirty acres, planted corn, raised it, ground it with a steel hand mill, and ate the bread earned by the sweat of his brow. He continued to labor until more than eighty years old. In 1843 the Turkey rose twenty-five feet above low water mark and swept away all his fences. Not yet discouraged he gathered what rails he could find and fenced in a part of his field. Again the water came and swept away his work, and at this he abandoned the field. Messrs. Thompson, Sage and Davis bought his millsite, which enabled him to improve his claim on which

his house stood. In 1853 his grandchildren came to Iowa, Captain Boardman and Mrs. Betsy Grannis, with whom he resided the remainder of his days well provided for. He died at Elkader, July 5, 1876, at the age of ninety-five years, nine months and nineteen days. He thus lived to a ripe old age, lacking a little over four years of being a centenarian, beloved and respected by all who knew him.

*Alexander McGregor*—Alexander McGregor was a descendant of the old Scotch family of McGregors, his immediate ancestors having emigrated to the United States and settled at Wilton, Saratoga county, N. Y., where he was born May 23, 1804. Of his early life we have been able to gather little information, except that his education was of that meager sort furnished by the common schools, such as they were at an early day in the country where his parents settled. But his native energies were such that he overcame in a great measure these disadvantages in the school of experience and self-education. He emigrated to Chicago in 1832, where he could have purchased at that time a future fortune for a mere trifle, had he foreseen what Chicago was destined to become. But that was hidden from the most sagacious observer in the sunken, miry and unpromising aspect which the future great city then presented. Prairie du Chien was then attracting considerable attention, and to this point he removed in 1835. During the following year he established a ferry from Prairie du Chien to the mouth of Coolie de Sioux, now the foot of Main street, McGregor, which, in consequence, soon became known as McGregor's Landing. The boat which Mr. McGregor first used was an old-fashioned river craft known as a flatboat, and was propelled by poles. In the spring of 1840 the United States Government commenced the building of Fort Atkinson, about fifty-five miles northwest on Turkey river, and established a military road from a point opposite Fort Crawford to Fort Atkinson. As that road had to pass through the Coolie de Sioux, the present site of McGregor, it being the only accessible point for crossing the river and reaching the high table-land to the west of it, the landing became a place of considerable importance. Ground was leased by the Government, and a warehouse erected on the river bank at the foot of what is now Main street, Mr. McGregor having located his claim at this point. The flatboat ferry established in 1836 did not prove exceedingly remunerative, but when the Government commenced work on Fort Atkinson, business increased to such an extent that a horse ferry was established in 1841. In 1847 Mr. McGregor moved across the river with his family, and occupied a log cabin at the foot of Main street.

During the year 1856 (twenty years from the establishment of the first ferry), business had increased so considerably that Mr. McGregor found it necessary to exchange his horse ferryboat for one more powerful and rapid. Consequently a new steamboat of 300 tons' burden was purchased at Cincinnati for \$12,000. This boat was christened the "Alexander McGregor," and arrived here Nov. 13, 1856. It was dedicated the following day by the citizens of McGregor and Prairie du Chien in an excursion to Clayton, twelve miles below on the Iowa side. In 1853 and 1854, the demand of immigration increasing, he established also a ferry at the mouth of the Wisconsin river,



crossing at a point about two miles below McGregor, where he built a road at his own expense. It would be interesting, as well as just to the memory of one so intimately identified with the history of this section of Iowa, to treat the eventful life of Mr. McGregor in greater detail, had we the data at our command; but little has been furnished us beyond what we have thus briefly recorded. Mr. McGregor was married April 23, 1843, to Miss Ann C. Gardner, of Saratoga county, N. Y. By this marriage he had four children, namely, the following, in order of their birth: Chester, Gregor, Gardner and George, of whom Gregor and Gardner are living. Gregor McGregor is engaged in business in the City of McGregor and has several times been elected to the mayoralty. He was elected in 1870 and 1871, and reëlected in 1874, holding the office at the present time.

Mr. McGregor died at the age of fifty-four years and seven months, on the 12th of December, 1858. His illness was long and painful, but he bore it with patient and heroic fortitude, and "died calmly as if going to sleep." We cannot do better, in closing this sketch, than to copy the following friendly tribute to his memory, written at the time of decease by the late editor of *The North Iowa Times*, Colonel A. P. Richardson, who knew him intimately: Alexander McGregor was our friend, and it would afford us a melancholy gratification to detail the difficulties and privations he encountered in the early settlement of this country, and the energies and manliness with which he met the responsibilities of pioneer life; but we are not furnished with the data, and hence this notice can not be historical, though the subject of it eminently merits and invites a minute biographical article. Knowing our deceased friend to have been a man of unquestioned integrity, averse to the application of the reception of flattery, we dare not insult his memory by the use of smooth terms of exclusive praise. In the estimation of the world, and doubtless of himself, he was not faultless, but whatever errors of life may be remembered against him are properly attributed to a moral constitution that asked nothing but the right and submitted to nothing that he regarded as wrong. The compromise of interest with principle was unknown to a nature that deliberately took a position believed to be correct, and inflexibly maintained it.

Many men are said to have died unregretted; their conduct has been such that no eye, moistened with the tear of sorrow, looked upon the last sad office that frail humanity could render; no interest except that caused by the remembrance of their wrongs awakened in the heart of the multitude. Not so here—the inhabitants of the town will long regret his early decease; the friends and neighbors of many years will mourn the loss of a tried friend, while anguish unutterable will possess the hearts of his revered partner and her orphan boys, when the gentle voice and the eloquent eye of the departed one present themselves to the keenly searching eye and ear of memory. Alexander McGregor was a warm friend, an open foe, a kind husband, an indulgent father, a law-abiding citizen, and an honest man. His sickness was borne and death met with a fortitude unexcelled in the records of earth's greatest heroes. His funeral was the most imposing tribute of regard on the part of the citizens ever paid to a deceased fellow-

citizen in this part of the State. The cortege was half a mile in length, numbering from fifty to seventy-five teams, and carrying nearly a thousand people. The hotels and business houses were closed and draped in mourning, and a general sadness was exhibited by all.

*Governor Samuel Merrill.*—Samuel Merrill was born in the town of Turner, Oxford County, Maine, August 7, 1822. He was the son of Abel and Abigail (Hill) Merrill. He was one of a large family and was descended from Nathan Merrill, who came to America from England in 1636. When sixteen years of age he removed, with his parents, to Buxton, Maine, where he attended and taught school in turn until he reached his majority. He tried teaching in Maryland, but soon returned to his native state where he engaged in business with his brother Jeremiah. A few years later he joined the great rush of settlers to Iowa and came to McGregor, establishing himself in the mercantile business. He prospered during the rushing days of McGregor's great prosperity and soon became one of the leading merchants. Accumulating wealth rapidly, he soon became engaged in the banking business and was one of the founders, and the first president of the McGregor State Bank.

In 1859 he was elected to the Legislature from Clayton County and he took such forceful part in the deliberations of that body that he soon became recognized as one of the leaders of the Republican party. Before coming to Iowa Mr. Merrill had been a member of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire, and this legislative experience aided greatly in fitting him for a public career in Iowa. The Iowa Legislature, of which Mr. Merrill was a member, was called in extra session by Governor Kirkwood to devise measures to assist the general government in the prosecution of the war, and in this work Mr. Merrill took a prominent and patriotic part. When the first Iowa regiments were organized it was found that there was no available money to uniform them. It was this emergency that Mr. Merrill joined with other men of wealth and advanced some \$10,000 each for the equipment of the volunteers. It was this patriotic action which enabled Iowa to respond, promptly and efficiently, to the call for troops.

In 1862 Governor Kirkwood tendered Mr. Merrill the colonelcy of the 21st Iowa regiment. Colonel Merrill accepted the commission and at once became active in recruiting, and later, in leading his men to battle. The history of the regiment has been told in another chapter. Suffice it here to say that Colonel Merrill lead his men bravely and to victory. At the battle of Black River Bridge he was so severely wounded that he was forced to leave his regiment and return to McGregor.

His wound was so serious that he was granted an honorable discharge, but there was an insistent demand on the part of the regiment that he be reinstated, and thinking his health would permit, he rejoined his regiment. It proved, however that the effects of his wound were too serious to permit of active service and he was forced to leave the service in May, 1864. Returning to McGregor he became again interested in banking and when the State bank was reorganized as a National bank, he was the first president.

On account of his activities, both in peace and war, he was a

favorite candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor in 1867. At the state convention of the Republican party he lead all in the balloting, and was nominated on the fourth ballot. He was elected by a large majority and during the stormy days of re-construction, he was a strong influence for the granting of equal rights to the negro race. Some of his state papers are among the strongest and most able ever issued by an Iowa Governor. He was the first Governor of Iowa to recommend the regulation of railroad rates, and he was also a pioneer in insurance and educational legislation. He did a great work for Iowa, in 1868, when upon the invitation of Peter Cooper, he wrote a lengthy review of the resources and possibilities of the state. This document was circulated widely in the east, was translated into other languages and had great influence in attracting desirable immigration to Iowa.

Governor Merrill was reelected, in 1869, by the largest majority ever given an Iowa Governor up to that time. He was a man of great force of character, and unafraid to act according to his convictions, and he vetoed a number of bills during his second term as Governor. Some of these vetoes drew sharp criticism, but in every instance they were justified by time. It was during his term that the capitol of Iowa was built and it was Governor Merrill, who, in October, 1870, held the plow to break the first ground for the building of that great structure. It was he, also, who laid the cornerstone of the building in November, 1871. He was also the moving spirit in the great soldiers' reunion held at Des Moines, in 1870, securing an appropriation of \$15,000 from the state and \$5,000 from the city of Des Moines for the purpose of the entertainment of the soldiers and also securing for them free transportation over the railroads of the state.

His administration was marked by many other accomplishments for the good of the people. He was also the first Governor of Iowa to give his entire time to the conduct of his office, removing to Des Moines for that purpose. Upon retiring from the office of Governor, he accepted the presidency of the Citizens' National Bank of Des Moines, which position he held until his removal to California, where he spent his last years in well earned leisure. He died at Los Angeles, California, August 31, 1899, and he was buried at Des Moines. Gov. Merrill was married three times. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1847, died fourteen months after their marriage. He was married in 1851 to Miss Elizabeth D. Hill, and she was the wife who was known and loved by the people of McGregor and of Iowa as the first lady of the state. Governor Merrill was one who made his way by sheer force of intellect and deeds, rather than by words and protestations. He was reserved and dignified and not at all of the type of the so-called "popular politician," and there were many in Clayton county who stood closer to the hearts of the people, but none who commanded higher respect.

*Major E. V. Carter*—Major Carter was a native of the State of New York, and was educated in Ohio. In 1847 he moved to Iowa, and located in Clayton county, first in Grand Meadow township and subsequently in Elkader. He taught the first school in Elkader, after which he embarked in mercantile pursuits. In this he continued until



1859, when at the request of prominent business men of the county he came to McGregor as president of the McGregor branch of the State Bank of Iowa, which position he filled until the branch bank gave place to the national bank. Soon after this he accepted a paymaster's commission in the United States service. In the arduous duties of that office he impaired his health and brought on his death sickness. In November, 1865, he returned to his family, only to decline and die among his friends. He died at Elkader, April 21, 1866, in his fifty-seventh year. During his active public and private career, he established and maintained a reputation for integrity and promptness in all his dealings which made him esteemed, respected and honored by all who knew him. It can be said of him that he had no enemies. Old and young alike loved him. The announcement of his death caused general sorrow, and a large company of mourning friends accompanied his remains to their last resting place. He was buried Monday, April 23. Rev. S. P. Sloan, of McGregor, of whose society Mr. Carter was a member, delivered an impressive sermon and paid a just tribute to the deceased. The services were held in his church, the erection of which was due more to his efforts and benevolence than to those of any other person.

There was scarcely a man in the county more widely known and more universally respected. He possessed traits of character which could not fail to bring him into notice and command general respect. In his youth he enjoyed more than ordinary advantages for mental culture, and during his whole life he was a close observer of men and things, keeping well advised of passing events, and well informed on all the great questions which engaged the public attention. He was possessed of a very happy disposition, having in his nature a humorous, playful element which made him an agreeable companion of youth, and at the same time a grave and serious element which fitted him to be the companion and counselor of the mature and the aged. But his crowning excellence was the immovable integrity of his character. He was honest, truthful, frank, straightforward, unflinching, always and everywhere. His religion was eminently practical; it was to do good; as well as to be good; it was the love of man as well as the love of God. There were two directions in which his benevolence especially took direction: first, in the cause of temperance, he was one of the earliest and latest and most constant advocates; second, he was an abolitionist, one, too, when it cost a man something to be a friend of a slave. He believed in the inalienable right of men to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and believing this, he made it his political platform, and on it he stood and battled for freedom, until he saw his principles triumph in the nation. Having lived an earnest life, full of good works, the peaceful death which he died was the fitting close of his upright career.

*Dr. Samuel Little* was born in Enfield, Grafton county, N. H., May 22, 1801, and studied medicine at Dartmouth College. After completing his studies, he practiced in his native state until 1855, when he gave up medicine and moved to his present home in Clayton county. At the time he located here, that portion of the county which he chose for his home was in its wild and natural state. The rolling prairies

covered with gay wild flowers charmed his imagination and he selected for his home a most charming spot, overlooking one of the most beautiful and delightful valleys in the wide West, now dotted with beautiful and enterprising villages, and neat and well-cultivated farms.

Nothing could ever induce him to leave this delightful abode or to practice his profession. For nearly a quarter of a century this kind and honorable man lived in this retreat, honored by his neighbors, and loved by an interesting family. He took a deep interest in art and science, and spent much time in reading and study. He died March 21, 1878, from injuries resulting from being thrown from his carriage. He was returning from McGregor in company with his son-in-law, when a drunken fellow drove up rapidly, striking the carriage so forcibly as to throw the doctor violently to the ground. He never recovered from these injuries.

#### HON. THOMAS UPDEGRAFF

Woven all through the history of Clayton county, from the early 50s to the close of the first decade of the twentieth century, is the name of Thomas Updegraff. The county has produced many splendid men and not a few who have risen to much prominence, but there were none who had a longer and more honorable career nor who were more widely known and respected than this man who was known as "Honest Tom" throughout the length and breadth of Iowa.

He was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, April 2, 1834, the son of William and Rachel (Smith) Updegraff. As a youth he received an excellent academic education which served as a foundation for the years of study and research which formed a large part of his lifework and which made him one of the greatest scholars and clearest thinkers Iowa has ever known. He came to Clayton county with his brother-in-law, Elijah Odell, and joined the little colony at Garnaville which at that time contained more brains to the square mile than any other section of Iowa. A short time after his arrival, and as a young man of twenty-two, he was appointed clerk of the district court and for the next few years his residence changed with the changing county seat. Two years later he returned to the east for a short time, bringing back with him to Iowa his bride, Laura A. Platt, to whom he was married in Huron county, Ohio, June 1, 1858, and who was his loving and helpful wife until her death which occurred on January 2, 1865. During these years Mr. Updegraff spent the time not devoted to his official business to the study of law under the tutelage of Mr. Odell, and, in 1861, soon after leaving the clerk's office, he was admitted to the bar and entered into partnership under the firm name of Odell & Updegraff.

Although a man of large stature and of apparent robustness, Mr. Updegraff did not enjoy good health. During his term as clerk he suffered a severe illness which it was thought at the time would prove fatal. This was undoubtedly the reason that he was not found in the Union ranks, for no man was more patriotic nor more staunch in loyalty to the flag. In 1860 he made McGregor his home and it was there that he died after fifty years' continuous residence. At McGregor he soon made his mark as a lawyer and as a citizen, but, although taking

an active interest in political events at all times, he was for the next ten years, up to 1870, devoting himself almost entirely to his profession. After the death of Mr. Odell he became a partner with that great pioneer lawyer, Hon. Reuben Noble, and this became one of the most noted legal firms in northern Iowa. He was a member of the school board of McGregor and, from 1870 until 1892, served as city solicitor. During the war and immediately thereafter Mr. Updegraff was strongly republican, but he was among those who "Greeleyized" in the early 70s and he followed the fortunes of the great editorial idealist in his disastrous campaign against Grant. Mr. Updegraff was active in support of Greeley in this campaign and although he soon returned to the republican ranks, this temporary defection was never forgiven by many of his party associates. His re-entrance into public life came in 1878, when he was elected as a representative from Clayton county to the Iowa legislature. Here his great ability came into active play and he soon became an acknowledged leader. It was his prominence and effectiveness in the legislature which led to his nomination for Congress from the Fourth congressional district. His candidacy was successful and he was re-elected, serving in the 46th and 47th congresses, from 1879 to 1883. He was nominated for a third term, but was defeated by L. H. Weller, known throughout the state as "Calamity Weller." This was at the height of the "anti-monopoly" movement in Iowa, but the election of Weller came as a great surprise as his early candidacy had been considered in the light of a joke by his political opponents. For the next ten years Mr. Updegraff devoted himself to his extensive law practice at McGregor, but he was at all times a commanding figure in the politics of Iowa, standing high in the councils of his party and his forceful eloquence being in demand in each campaign. In 1903 he was again the candidate of his party for Congress, and this time his opponent was Hon. W. H. Butler. The campaign was exciting, there was a series of joint debates which stirred the entire district, and the contest ended with a victory for Mr. Updegraff by 1,500 majority. He was twice re-elected, serving in the 53d, 54th and 55th congresses. He was a candidate for the nomination for a fourth term, and in this he was opposed by Hon. J. E. Blythe, of Mason City, who had been chairman of the republican state central committee and who had behind him the force of the regular organization. This was one of the most bitter pre-convention contests ever known in Iowa and resulted in a draw between the two leading candidates and the nomination of Hon. G. N. Haugen. During the years of contest between the wings of the republican party, designated as "progressives" and "stand-pat," Mr. Updegraff allied himself with the progressive cause and was one of its strongest and most able supporters. In 1888 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention and was one of the committee to notify Benjamin Harrison of his nomination for the Presidency. At the time of his death, the Register and Leader, of Des Moines, contained an able article of appreciation of Mr. Updegraff's brilliant career, from which the following is quoted:

"After he retired from Congress, Mr. Updegraff chose retirement as far as politics were concerned, and devoted himself to his law practice. He held no public position afterward save that of commissioner



to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. In his law practice he made no effort to build up new business—he merely cared for the interests of business firms and families that had entrusted their legal affairs to him for a generation or more.

“However, his interests were keenly alive and he followed the events of recent years very closely. By nature independent in thought, his sympathies were with the progressive faction of the republican party and his influence was exerted for them. He did not go with the progressives as far as the tariff was concerned; on the tariff issue he stood pat. He explained his unusual attitude in a recent letter to United States Senator Cummins. ‘You know that I am with you in your fight,’ he said in effect, ‘and I have been all these years. But I can’t agree with you on the tariff. But I feel that these other issues of corporation and railroad control and their like are so much bigger than the tariff that I can’t afford to part with you on the tariff issue.’”

Mr. Updegraff had natural aptitude for politics, but he sought no office for himself until he had passed into the forties, when he was elected to the seventeenth general assembly, the general assembly of 1877. In that assembly Mr. Updegraff was prominently associated with the efforts to create a state board for the control of state institutions, such as was later created. The lower branch of the legislature acted favorably upon the proposed legislation, but the senate defeated it.

Mr. Updegraff was a large-hearted man and if he had a weakness it was an inability to say no to men who pleaded with him for this or that. He was never known to refuse to help a friend in need, and he attached his name to the notes of friends with a readiness that sometimes cost him dearly. He was a man of high ideals in his private life and in his public service both, and he believed in standing by his principles. He was genial in disposition and greatly beloved by his neighbors and fellow townsmen in McGregor, where his home has been since the sixties.

Mr. Updegraff belonged to an unusual group of pioneer attorneys in northeastern Iowa, including Elijah Odell, Reuben Noble, Samuel Murdock, Judge Williams, James C. Crosby, L. L. Ainsworth, and others of their high type. “There never was a finer bar than Clayton county had in those days,” said an attorney who knew these men personally. Of this group, James C. Crosby of Garnaville is perhaps the sole living member, and he insists that he is not growing older, because he hasn’t time to grow old.

“Tom” Updegraff and William Larrabee were close friends and political associates for many years. They were together on the St. Louis Exposition board of commissioners, and they coöperated in bringing Clayton and Fayette counties into line for progressive republicanism.

Recently Freeman A. Conway of the Ames Intelligencer, secretary of the St. Louis board of commissioners, set out to arrange a reunion of the commissioners. Governor Larrabee wrote a letter explaining that he doubted if “Tom” Updegraff could come to Des Moines for such a reunion, because he was not in good health and averse to going far from home. Governor Larrabee suggested that the reunion be held

at Clermont and expressed the belief that he could induce his friend Updegraff to come over there.

"Tom" Updegraff's illness was more serious than most of his friends supposed. It proved to be due to an internal cancerous growth which finally took him out of this mortal world. Mr. Updegraff leaves two daughters, who kept up the home at McGregor. They are daughters of a second wife who died some years ago. W. F. Odell of Des Moines is a nephew. He was as successful in business as in practice of law and politics and leaves a comfortable estate.

*Michael Uriell*—Michael Uriell was born September 25, 1816, in County Tipperary, Ireland, his parents being John and Mary (Gleason) Uriell, where he had few educational advantages and passed his early life on a farm. His father having died previously, in March, 1838, with his mother and two brothers, Patrick and John, they emigrated to the United States, landing in New Orleans, and thence came to St. Louis and finally came to McGregor, which they reached November 1st, 1838. From there they started with an ox team through the timber, Joel Post was the only one before them. They first went to Farmersburg and in the next spring to what was afterward Read township, and located on the farm which was subsequently known as the James Uriell place, where he remained with his brother Patrick, who had entered the land. Joel Post and Elias Miner were the only two settlers before them in what is now known as Read township. In those days Mr. Uriell has said: "There was not a blacksmith in Clayton county and I used to go to Prairie du Chien to get my plow fixed, and to Catfish mill, Dubuque, to get my flour." About this time the government had opened a farm near Fort Atkinson for the purpose of teaching the Indians the art of farming and to this place Mr. Uriell was attracted, and there he worked several years, as overseer, until the Indians were taken to Crow Wing river, Minnesota, by Gen. Fletcher, then the agent. After his return to Clayton county he settled on the northeast quarter of section 29, Read township, which he had entered some years previous. This farm he has owned fifty-nine years and here he resided until he came to Elkader.

Mr. Uriell was the second justice of the peace elected in his township and for ten years served the county as a member of the Board of Supervisors. In all places of trust he was regarded as a man of high honor and a valuable officer. Upon his retirement from the Board of Supervisors the North Iowa Times, in speaking of it at that time said: "In the retirement of Hon. M. Uriell, the county loses the services of a valuable and honest servant, one who has faithfully discharged the duties devolving upon him with a zealous and earnest desire to benefit those for whom he was laboring. We believe we are but expressing the feelings of the people over the county when we say that in the retirement of Michael Uriell, Clayton county has parted with an honest, faithful, upright servant."





## CHAPTER XVIII

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### A CHAPTER OF REMINISCENCES

#### REMINISCENCES—AS WRITTEN BY VARIOUS PIONEERS

SAMUEL MURDOCK—S. T. WOODWARD—GEORGE MONLUX—P. P. OLMSTEAD  
—GEORGE OATHOUT—MRS. ANN DICKENS—MRS. LOUISA MURDOCK—  
GUY KINGSLEY—ELIPHALET PRICE.

**I**N this chapter also the pioneers are speaking for themselves, giving an intimate and personal view such as no one can give unless he lived through, and was a part of the events of which the written history tells. These reminiscences are gathered from many sources and were written at various times and are well worth preserving in this history.

#### REMINISCENCES OF SAMUEL MURDOCK

I had spent about two years in the Territory of Iowa chiefly at Iowa City when I concluded before settling down for good, I would take a look at other parts of the country. I made my way to Dubuque, presented my letters, and I was soon acquainted with the members of the bar of that county. The district court was in session. I fell in with Dr. Andros and John Thomas, the father of O. B. Thomas of Prairie du Chien. Having between them a good team, a light wagon and a vacant seat they persuaded me to accompany them to Clayton county, an invitation which I gladly accepted. We arrived at Dr. Andros's home, situated about a mile south of the town of Jacksonville, now Garnavillo, on the 9th of August, 1843. The farm now occupied by Henry Schlake was then occupied by a Scotchman by the name of A. P. McDonald, who with his amiable wife, had wandered into the western wilds in search of a future home, and who offered me the hospitality of their house and home, and it was at the fireside of this noble couple that I spent nearly two happy years of my life. With my trusty rifle I kept the family supplied in meat, and with my good eyes in an abundance of wild honey, and these, with two good cows to furnish milk and butter, we lived on the fat of the land. This family afterward moved to Canada, where Mr. McDonald was elected a member of their parliament, and where he became one of her distinguished men; and where both lived to a good old age and died at last lamented by all.

It will be remembered that in pursuance of an act of the legislature the county seat had then but recently been moved from Prairie la Port, and the stake had been stuck about where the old liberty pole formerly stood in the public square at Garnavillo. The morning after my arrival I took a ramble about the future town and a view of the surrounding country, and found the scene wild but beautiful. The town consisted only of one small log hut occupied by Mr. John Banfil, wife, and Miss Cora Patch, a sister of my wife, and the family bade me a hearty welcome as a proposed future settler. It was here that on that day, I first met several old settlers of the surrounding country; among them were James Watson, John W. Gillett, James Thompson, George Whitman, Richard Only, A. Griswold, James King, with quite a number of others, whose names have now escaped me, and telling them my occupation, they one and all bade me welcome as the first professional man to make his appearance among them.

A term of the district court was to be held here on the first Monday in October next, and Mr. Banfil and wife had come to build a hotel to accommodate the people who would be in attendance, and both were well fitted for the task before them. Banfil himself was a mechanic of the first class, and could work at all trades, besides he was untiring in his labor, and from the time I first struck his cabin until court day, I do not think I slept five hours in the twenty-four. Besides James Thompson, Hiram Parkhurst, and Abram Van Doran, all good mechanics, had commenced the erection of another hotel just south of the public square, in opposition, to be called the Temperance House, and there was a race for completion. Banfil, however, succeeded, and on court day had his building ready for the reception of guests. The front part of this building was moved a few years ago and is now owned by Martin Havill. The rear part is still standing and is still occupied as a hotel by that genial and kind-hearted landlord Schumacher. The old Temperance House, long occupied by the Engler Brothers, is a thing of the past, and Thompson sleeps his last sleep in the old cemetery near it. Parkhurst met a horrible death on the plains, where he was skinned while alive by the Indians. Van Doran informs me in a recent letter, that he still lives, and on the highest peaks of the Cumberland mountains in old Virginia. All of these men were of the mould in which nature casts her nobility. At last the day of court arrived, with the Hon. T. S. Wilson, long known in Iowa as an able jurist, and an honorable man, who has but recently been called to his long home, on the bench; Dr. F. Andros, clerk; Ambrose Kennedy, sheriff. There was a large number of cases on the docket, for at this time the jurisdiction of the county extended to the British line on the north and westward without limit, and the cases had called here men, suitors, witnesses, grand and petit jurors, for many miles around. Foreign lawyers from Dubuque and Wisconsin were present in force, and the temporary courthouse recently erected by the county, failed to hold but a trifle of the number who had business within it, but who afterward became neighbors and friends for life. How was this vast and hungry crowd to be fed and lodged? Banfil was equal to every occasion for he had his building covered. In every room, both above and below, he had erected temporary board

tables covered at meal-time with plenty and of the best. These tables he converted into beds at night, while he threw up a temporary shanty across the street, to do the triple purpose of a saloon, a restaurant, and sleeping-room, while the farmers in the country opened their homes to many. It was thus that this good-natured crowd spent one whole week at the first court held at Jacksonville.

Those of our readers who are familiar with pioneer life, can well imagine the acts and doings of such a crowd of men who in the absence of female restraint, had assembled at that spot to inaugurate the first example of a high court on the high prairie and yet they adjourned and parted without a single jar, or mishap of any kind. At this court there appeared for the first time a young man of fine appearance dressed in homespun, with a pleasing countenance, a fine physique and with an intellectual face, who afterward settled in the county as an attorney-at-law, and who became a noted lawyer and an able judge, one who for fifty-three years held a place in the first rank of this profession, and who died at last still in the harness, lamented and regretted by all. This young man was the late Judge Reuben Noble, he and Murdock for many years constituted the bar of the county. There is still living in the city of Humboldt, Humboldt county, Iowa, with his old wife, a hale, hearty old man by the name of E. B. Lyons, who in 1842 was the clerk of the County Commissioners' Court of Clayton County, and with this exception, Van Doran and myself, I know of no others of that vast crowd of men who attended that first court who are alive today.

SAMUEL MURDOCK.

REMINISCENCES BY HON. S. T. WOODWARD

We found the prairie in the township mostly unsettled, wild and unbroken. It seemed beautiful beyond description, covered with wild flowers and surrounded by groves and woods. The settlement at that day was along the edge of the Mississippi timber mainly, and I often then used to hear men say that the prairie about Center Grove would not soon be settled, because it was too far from timber. The earliest settlers, judging by the entries of land, were Henry D. Lee, Daniel W. Barber, Peter Eastman and Joseph Tusrow, who entered land in 1841 and 1842, along the edge of the Mississippi timber. The Barbers both died about the time we came to the country, and the widow married P. W. Lown, who now lives in Grand Meadow township, and the widow of Daniel married Wm. C. Linton, who still lives in the township. Harry D. D. Lee was one of the Government surveyors in 1837-38, and undoubtedly made his selection of land while engaged on that survey. Peter Eastman afterward moved to Mendon township, where he died many years ago. Wm. C. Linton, S. W. Buck, Geo. A. Whitman, Sidney E. Wood, P. R. Moore, John Hamilton, I. W. Shaff, Obadiah Brown, Orrin Keeler, Wm. King and M. B. Sherman entered land in 1844, '45, '46, and most of them commenced improvements about that time. Sidney Wood was a Methodist preacher, a son-in-law, I think, of John Francis. He sold out to Dr. I. H. T. Scott, who now lives in Monona, and Wood, I believe, then moved to Oregon. Dr. Scott, when he moved to Iowa, had his



diploma as a physician, and first moved with his young wife, an excellent woman, by the way, long since deceased, to Garnaville, where he went vigorously to work, at first shaving shingles to earn a living, till he should become known in his profession. Wm. C. Linton, and M. B. Sherman still live in the township; Geo. A. Whitman and Nathaniel Wood sold out and moved to Minnesota; Joseph Neill and Orrin Keeler died many years ago, and Hoskins, P. R. Moore and Hamilton moved away. After the above named settlers, the next batch were: Cyrus A. Buck, who bought I. W. Barber's farm, James Woodward, Wm. Scarf, Edwin Sherman and Major Jenkins, in 1848, and Judge Crary and Hon. M. L. Fisher came in 1849 and entered. The new board cabin of the former was one of the prominent landmarks of the prairie when first built, and the present residence of the other must have been built soon after. Wm. L. Newton, F. G. Cook, Wm. S. Scott, Geo. L. Cook, Danford Eddy, James Jones and Levi Angier must have been among those who commenced making farms there in 1849-50, and doubtless many others whose names I can't now recall. In 1853, '54, '55, '56, settlement was rapidly made, and land was brought under cultivation very fast. Most of us in those days lived in log cabins, built with our own hands. The teams used were mostly oxen, and many a time did we go to social gatherings, "sleighting with the girls," with oxen and sleds. A span of horses and double wagon was at that time an aristocratic outfit. Farmersburg precinct at first, after we came to Iowa, embraced McGregor, and I think part of the Giard elections were held in the log school-house near where Norman Hamilton now lives, which was, I think, the first school-house built in the township. I remember seeing Alexander McGregor and others from McGregor's Landing, as it was then called, at elections at the school-house. At that early day all roads to the woods were known as railroads, that is, roads on which rails were hauled. The first postoffice established in the township must have been in 1850 and Dr. I. T. H. Scott was the first postmaster. Afterward Wm. Scott, Charles Watkins and Wm. Feed held the office. The postoffice at National was established about 1854, and Nathan Slaughter, I think, was the first postmaster. The township has furnished several officers for the county, and at least one for the State. Hon. M. L. Fisher was senator four years, and was superintendent of public instruction for, I believe, two years. Hon. O. W. Crary was county judge, and afterward senator. Hon. Thos. D. White has been representative for two years, and John Everall, Esq., has been county superintendent of common schools for the county. Sidney Wood once represented our county in the legislature, and I. W. Francis was probate judge for several years.

#### REMINISCENCES OF GEORGE MONLUX

In 1915, George Monlux, a pioneer of Wagner township, wrote from his new home in Rock Rapids a series of reminiscences of Clayton county, from which the following concerning agricultural methods and other interesting facts of the early days are taken: "When we came to Elkader, in May, 1858, I had never seen a reaper. In Ohio, we always cut our grain with a cradle and sometimes with a hand sickle, but here we found the old blue McCormick which would cut

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anything from grain to hazelbrush. A man rode on the machine with his back to the team and raked the grain off and where the grain stood up he could deliver it in good shape for the binder. It took eight binders to bind grain and two men to shock, and ten to twelve acres was a good day's work. Other reapers soon came into use, we had an Esterly, on the back end of the platform a man stood with a fork to deliver the grain. A self-raker was tried by Joseph Stiner, and while it would cut and rake very well, the mechanical construction was at fault and kept breaking down. Then came the John P. Manny and the John H. Manny, one used a rake and the other a fork to deliver the grain. Then came the McCormick self-rake, with five bars on the reel, one of which scraped the grain from the platform into bundles. Another machine with self-rake was the Walter A. Wood, a very good machine, as was the Kirby, a self-rake. Then came the binder, the Buckeye and the Excelsior, and these kind of reapers were the favorite until the Marsh harvester, the wire binder and then the twine binder of the present day.

In Ohio, we threshed grain with the flail and by tramping the sheaves with horses, on the barn floor, or by threshing with a single twenty-four-inch cylinder run by tread power, and cleaning the grain by the old windmill, but out in Iowa, Peter Walter had a genuine threshing machine with the old tub power run by eight horses with tumbling rod attached to a jack wheel and from that to the machine by a belt. The horse power was staked to the ground and when moved had to be loaded upon a wagon; the machine had no straw stacker or feeder attached and the grain was caught in the half bushel under the machine. In Wagner township, buggies were practically unknown. When we went to church, father and mother occupied split bottom chairs at the front end of the wagon box and we kids piled in behind on soft hay or straw.

The spring of 1857 was very late and no seeding was done until after the first of May and even then great snow banks could be found in many places. At that time a seeder or grain drill was unknown, all grain was sown by hand, scattering the grain from a sack strapped over the shoulder and it was my business to carry the grain from sacks distributed over the field to father, who did the sowing. The grain was then dragged in with a common harrow, or if sown in cornstalks, plowed in with a corn plow and a single shovel. I never saw a corn planter or a seeder until about ten years after this date and about that time the walking corn cultivator came into use, but all these early implements were very crude, heavy and cumbersome. Joseph Stiner purchased the first check row corn planter. The check rower was made of rope with knots to do the checking, but that year Uncle Stiner only cultivated his corn one way. A splendid crop of wheat and oats was produced that year, but the great panic of 1857 was on in all its force and the wheat we raised only sold for 35 to 40 cents per bushel.

Our money was almost worthless and much of it was entirely so, and a man could not carry it around without great danger. When he came to use it, he often found that the wild-cat banks which issued it were broke. While some bills were worth nearly par, others were at

a discount, running down, on a very active sliding scale, to nothing. A banker living in Michigan, Wisconsin, or any state could legally start a bank, issue bills and then send them as far away as possible into other states for circulation. The first money I ever earned, about \$4, for pitching bundles to a threshing machine, at 50 cents a day, was paid me for my own and as soon as possible I went to town to purchase various articles which I thought I needed, but after purchase I presented the merchant my Wisconsin bank bills and found the bank had failed and I was penniless, but I had lots of company. The only real money we had was gold and silver and bills of the State Bank of Iowa and, of course, this money was very scarce and utterly inadequate to transact our business. We had been using this wildcat money, accepting it at its face value, but we had some captains of industry and finance even at that day who knew how to skin the people; and the financiers and speculators just took our money at any discount they demanded, or not at all, and it was not until the National bank act, during the war, took effect that the country was relieved of this highway robbery.

The earlier settlers always had a good market for their supplies at home among the immigrants coming in and many of them took their wheat to the Elkader mill and had it ground into flour and with ox teams transported the flour north into Minnesota, where they found ready sale and good prices. About this time the railroad was built to Prairie du Chien, but this new market gave us no relief and during this panic money was almost unknown and it was a difficult matter to get real money enough to pay our taxes and it took gold money to pay the government price of \$1.25 per acre for land. But there was no suffering for food and clothing. We had plenty of everything that could be produced on the farm to eat, and our mothers were skillful with the spinning wheel, the loom, and with their knitting needles to produce warm and comfortable clothing. The clothing was not very fashionable, neither were the boys and girls of that period. We just worked and grew strong, enjoyed life, every day of it, went to our schools and spelling schools, churches and dances. The Hunt school house on the north, the Wagner school house on the center and the Patterson school house in the south part of our township were our social centers. The crops during the latter years of the 50's were usually good, but there was no money to purchase the surplus and after hauling produce to McGregor, some hauling for more than 100 miles, the usual price was \$2.00 per hundred for dressed hogs and around 50 cents per bushel for wheat. We used to mow the hay with a scythe and gather it with a fork from the swath into cots, or pitch it on the wagon and then by hand pitch the hay into a stack or hay-mow.

In April, 1861, after the fall of Fort Sumter and Lincoln's proclamation calling out 75,000 men, the country went wild with the patriotic sentiment of defending their country, the quota was filled in a few days, and the young men appeared to be alarmed for fear the fighting would be over before they could get to the front. About the middle of April, 1861, there was a genuine law trial in my father's court, at which Tom Updegraff, of McGregor, and R. E. Price, of

Elkader, were the attorneys and these attorneys brought us the news of the bombardment and fall of Fort Sumter and that war had commenced. Quite a number of the citizens of Wagner were present but this news did not create much excitement. Of course the news had been pointing toward war, but the people generally were loath to believe that there would be real war, but soon was issued Lincoln's proclamation for 75,000 men. Then the people unanimously talked and rallied to the support of the nation, but when the repeated call for men of 300,000, 500,000 and as the war dragged along, calling for men, then did the slimy head of the copperhead begin to show, but here only to the extent of discouraging enlistment. This however, is not the time and place to talk about the disgraceful and treasonable part taken in our Civil War by the Copperheads and Knights of the Golden Circle.

The first enlistments, as I recall them, were Joe Eno and Lester Squires, Third Infantry, killed at Blue Mills, Missouri, in September, 1861; John Christ, Company K, First Iowa Cavalry; Jacob Christ, Twelfth Infantry; John Monlux, Sixteenth U. S. These boys enlisted in 1861 from Wagner township, but in 1862, when the Iowa regiments were organized the boys came out by the hundreds from loyal Clayton county. According to the Iowa roster, Clayton county furnished about 350 men for the Twenty-first Iowa, and Company D, Capt. Elisha Boardman's company of Elkader, was made up entirely of recruits from Elkader and vicinity. About 275 Clayton county boys enlisted in the Twenty-seventh Infantry. Lieutenant Tipton and Avalo J. Price, major, recruited 33 men, all from the immediate vicinity of Elkader for Company I, Eighth Iowa Cavalry. This body of men was known in the regiment as the Elkader squad. In the enlistments in 1862, very many of the soldiers were married and left their families behind, and I have heard many of the soldiers say, "The hardest battle I ever fought was when I marched away and left my wife and children." When the call was made for 300,000 more men the farmers met and made arrangements to enlist as soon as their crops were harvested, and the result was as soon as they could get matters arranged they enlisted in a body, making almost an entire company, and nearly all married men. I was elected captain and for three years commanded this company.

#### P. P. OLMSTEAD

On the 13th day of July, 1840, P. P. Olmstead and his brother, David, set out from Prairie du Chien across the Mississippi in search of a home. After one or two days' journey, they concluded to make a claim in what is now Monona township. Returning to Prairie du Chien, they purchased an outfit for keeping house, and then settled on their claim. They were the first white settlers in Monona township. About two miles northwest of their location was an Indian village, with a population of 200 Winnebagoes, whose chief was Whirling Thunder. There was also a farm of about forty-five acres connected with the village and cultivated by the Indians. This farm had been broken and fenced by the United States Government in 1838. They



found the Indians peaceable, but never regarded them as very agreeable neighbors. Their first experience concerning the character of their neighbors was derived a few days after they had completed their cabin. Some of the Indians called during the absence of Mr. Olmstead and brother, and carried away all their bedclothes and provisions. The next October, Whirling Thunder and his band moved to Fort Atkinson, where the whole Winnebago tribe of Indians, numbering about 3,400, were being moved, most of them from Wisconsin, for the purpose of compelling them to occupy the neutral grounds, according to stipulation. The Indians often crossed their reservation lines, however, and visited the whites. Speaking of the Indians, Mr. Olmstead says: "We were often visited by the Indians, who were generally friendly and peaceable. On two or three occasions only did they show any disposition to injure us. About the first of August, soon after we had completed our cabin, Brother David went to Grant county, Wisconsin, where he remained about two weeks, leaving me alone to work on our claim, and during his absence eight or ten Indians, of both sexes, came into our cabin and asked for food. I gave them what I had cooked, but did not appear to satisfy them. One of them commenced searching the cabin for more food, which did not surprise me or cause me any alarm until I discovered that he held in his right hand a butcher knife with blade drawn, which he tried to conceal under his blanket, but which I discovered probably in time to save my life, for as soon as I saw it and noticed the manner in which he held the knife, I was satisfied that he intended to take my life, and I immediately stepped to one corner of the room and caught hold of an ax, which was the best weapon within my reach, and told them to go out of the house, which order was obeyed with some apparent hesitation.

"About the first of the following November, Brother David and myself being at our cabin together, seven strong-looking Indians came from the west, and upon speaking with them we discovered that they intended mischief. The first words spoken by them were threats to burn our cabin. After hearing their threats we bolted the door. They did not show any weapons, and I think they did not intend to injure us, but as soon as we shut the door against them, they commenced trying to break it down by throwing their weight against it. About the time they commenced trying to break down the door, Mr. Schnider, then employed as blacksmith at the mission near Fort Atkinson, came along with his team, and the Indians withdrew from the house. Knowing that Mr. Schnider had been employed by the Government for several years and could converse with the Indians in their own language, we requested him to stay with us that night and try to persuade the Indians to be peaceable and not further molest us. Mr. Schnider very kindly complied with our request, and succeeded in preventing any further attack upon our premises. What the result would have been had not Mr. Schnider come just at that time, I am unable to determine. Had the Indians persisted in their attack upon our cabin we should have defended it to the utmost of our power, but they might have overpowered us and our lives been sacrificed. I shall ever remember with gratitude the timely aid rendered us by Mr.

Schnider, who afterward settled in and became a respected citizen of Giard township."

## REMINISCENCES OF GEORGE OATHOUT

"Situated in the village of Luana, Clayton county, about 18 miles west of McGregor, there still remain two old-time road houses or hotels which were standing on the present location over 50 years ago. The hotel near the center of the village is now conducted by Mrs. Henderson and is fully up to the standard of requirements for a good stopping place for the lonely traveler. This house was formerly known as the 'New England House' and was conducted over 50 years ago by Wm. S. Scott, who together with his family, has gone over the river years ago. Before a railroad through this section was even thought of, the military trail which passes through here and was used by the soldiers passing from Prairie du Chien to Fort Atkinson as well as other forts in Minnesota and later by thousands of immigrants going through to find home on the frontier which was not very far away at that time as there was plenty of Government land before reaching Decorah or West Union. Many of these immigrants who had plenty of money would stop for meals or lodging, while others would camp in or under their wagons and cooked their meals on a fire made from any old thing they found by the wayside or brought along for the purpose. The writer has many times seen hundreds of such wagons pass in a day. Later, when these people had secured their home, and had something to sell, McGregor was their market for many years and the road would be literally filled with teams going to or coming from market. Then was the time that our hotels flourished. Many times the beds would be full and often most all of the floor space too.

"Sometimes a whole beef would disappear in a day at this New England House. Many people who were then or afterwards noted have put up at this hotel. We recall at this time U. S. Grant, while living at Galena, Ill., often stopped here while out on a trip selling leather and buying hides for a tannery in his home town. These old inns along the trail were the gathering places for the people living in this sparsely settled region and, of course, were used for their 'board of trade' where we would gather evenings to swap yarns and take in the news brought by the daily line of stages owned by Frank and Walker, who carried passengers for about 25 cents a mile, also the U. S. Mail, and if we are not mistaken, the express business, then handled by the same pioneer company, who are now in charge of the express business on the Milwaukee railroad system. The other road house was owned and conducted by Geo. Teeter 50 years ago and later by several different landlords. The stages all stopped at this house at that time and would change horses and get dinner. It was quite a sight for the boys to see the four-horse stages coming from McGregor, West Union, Decorah and Elkader about the same time."

## REMINISCENCES BY MRS. ANN DICKENS

It is with much satisfaction that I lend my efforts to the work of contributing a chapter to the story of early days in Clayton county.

I came to this county in 1836. The 15th day of April we landed at the mouth of the Turkey river and wended our way up that river on horseback, which was the mode of travel then, until we reached the little settlement we had in view. This was about 5 miles up the river where resided a few families, constituting the settlement. They were: Robt. Hatfield, James Finley, Henry Redmond, J. W. Jones and Wm. Wayman. A view of the Turkey river and its surrounding bluffs at this time would hardly bring to mind what it was in the days of 1836. When I arrived there the hills were covered with immense timber but no undergrowth, owing to the custom of the Indians of burning the ground every fall to help the growth of feed for deer. The woods were full of panther, bear, wild cats, wolves, foxes, deer and wild turkey: and often I wondered how those wild turkeys lived and multiplied to such a great extent. Here the woods were full of animals for whom the eggs and the turkey's young would be such a toothsome meal. The log cabin in which the few families lived at that early day had puncheon floors: split timbers, hewed, and loose on their foundation. The Indian's name for the Turkey river was Sesick, Anashungara. At stated times during the year a regular trail was formed by the wild turkeys crossing the river, which from this fact took its name. I have seen a train of them, two to four abreast, extending from the river's bank to the forest a quarter of a mile away. A great many of these turkeys were trapped, the trap, a crude affair, but effective to the extent that one night my husband secured 24 of them. The trap was simply an area of about 10 feet square, enclosed and covered. A trench extended from the outside and gradually descending ran under the wall, opening on the inside. Through this trench the turkeys walked, led on by corn that had been generously sprinkled there.

The land was uncultivated with the exception of some small Indian farms where they raised corn and vegetables. Speaking of the Indians' farming reminds me of the way they used to cure their sweet corn for winter's use. They dug a large pit in the earth in which they burned wood until it was full of live coals. They then scooped out about half of these and filled the place with green corn, half of the husks on. They then covered this corn with the coals removed from the pit and over it all placed a good layer of ashes and left the corn thus to cook.

There were no laws at the time I came to Turkey river, nothing but a squatters' law or custom. Shortly afterward in the winter of '37 or '38, Eliphalet Price was elected justice and Dr. Griffeth, the sheriff. In the spring of 1838 the first court was held in Prairie la Porte, now Guttenberg, when two men lived in that place, Herman Greybill and Christian Wise. Court was held in the cabin of Herman Greybill, and every man in the county attended that court. The judge, Mr. Dunn, from across the river, had ordered that the proceedings and findings be held secret. Those were days when anything found by the court was a matter of excitement, and I never think of the name of Allen Carpenter, without my mind recalling his going to the door of the shanty immediately after court was adjourned and, not heeding the order of the judge, called out excitedly: "Hoop! we've found a



bill against old Pigeon." The bill was found for whiskey sold to the Indians, and from the warning thus given him, he escaped.

Speaking of Prairie la Porte, or Guttenberg, reminds me that besides the two cabins of Greybill and Wise, there were a number of miners' shanties and one log cabin hotel. In those days lead was mined quite extensively, but the mineral was never found in paying quantities. There was enough of it to induce the miners to work just a little farther, and many fortunes were sunk, by hopes that never materialized. No, there was nobody in Clayton county in 1832, the year of the Black Hawk war. The year following, three or four families arrived and in 1834 my brothers, Martin, Thomas and Moses Van Sickle came among the first. Thomas Van Sickle's child, my nephew, was the first white child born in the county, in the spring of 1834. Eastern Iowa at this time was the frontier, of course, and we lived the life of frontiersmen. We used to take what little wheat we raised to Maquoketa to a corn mill and have it ground. This left it pretty coarse, but it did for most purposes. When we wanted it for finer food we sifted it through mosquito bar. There were very few horses, and oxen were our mainstays. Many a time I have watched my father plow with the very crudest of instruments. Basswood for lines, the basswood strips laying in a trough of water to keep them from becoming too dry and brittle; raw cowhide for tugs; braided corn husks for the collar to the "harness"; crooked sticks for hames, with no iron. A furrow about 7 inches wide was made with our wooden plows, iron tipped. No calves could be raised on the open on account of the thousands of big, gray wolves. When we came we found the Indians "farming," raising corn and beans. Large, heavy, peculiarly shaped hoes were used and corn was not planted in rows but here and there where a soft place could be found. The Indians knew enough to hill their corn, however, before the white man's advent to the county. The Indians here then were the Winnebagoes and they were not troublesome unless the "civilized" white men gave them whiskey.

In the spring of 1838 I was married to my second husband, whom everybody knew as Ned Dickens. In the fall of the same year we moved from "The Settlement," to a little place north of Colesburg. Here that fall I stayed alone, from one Sunday to the next Saturday, 7 miles from the nearest neighbor, while Mr. Dickens was at the Turkey river settlement that we had left that spring, gathering corn. The only human beings I saw during that long week, were the Indians, who would peer in at the window (or holes that served for windows) or walk into the cabin, unannounced, for food and barter. The next Monday, two days after my husband got home, he shot within a half mile of the cabin a panther that measured 9 feet from the tip of the tail to the head. We sold the hide to Judge Price, for \$5.00, who had it mounted and from the tallow of the panther I made 11 dozen candles. As a joke upon some neighbors from the East, named Mallory (for whom Mallory township is named) this panther was divided, dried and fed to them for venison, and they did not know the difference for the meat was beautiful. The little incident of how this immense panther was shot in the southern part of Clayton county

in 1838 may be interesting. Mr. Dickens was following upon the fresh trail of a deer when he found them joined by the tracks of a panther. These he followed for some time until he came to a place where tracks of the panther disappeared. Following the deer trail some ways farther, he found a place where the snow was sprinkled with blood, and a portion of the deer lay covered with snow. A little ways farther on, crouched the panther, resting from his feast and watching the deer's remains. The distance from where the panther's tracks ceased to the fallen deer was 40 feet—the distance of the animal's jump. That year Mr. Dickens shot six panthers and four bears.

In the year 1839 Mr. Wayman had among his cattle an animal of which the Indian boys stood in much fear. Whenever they saw it they would make a dash for the rail fence and from that height would call out, "Waymana, Waymana, wapshada, nipu." Wapshada meaning bull, and nipu, dead, which signifies they were afraid the bull would kill them. This cry the white children soon took up. Their crying it one night so frightened a Yankee named McIntire, who thought the Indians were coming to massacre us, that I also became frightened, and my husband being gone, ran into the forest with my children and there hid all night. My brother, Moses Van Sickle, killed seven bears, single handed, in a cave on Cedar creek, just below what is now Garnavillo, in the winter of 1840. He entered the cave, torch and gun in hand and killed the seven, one by one, which the men outside pulled up with a rope. In 1842 we moved to near Farmersburg, which is now National, on Sni Magill, five miles from the Mississippi. In the winter of '47 and '48 I myself delivered at one time to McGregor's Landing, 2,000 pounds of venison to be wagoned to Fort Atkinson. In the winter of '56 and '57, the year of the heavy snow crust, my husband and son, Will, killed 41 deer.

Yes, sir, I have followed the frontier all of my early life and know well its hardships. I was born in Indiana, but moved westward with my parents in the advance of civilization. I was within 8 miles of the great massacre during the Black Hawk war and moulded bullets for the settlers during that war.

#### LOUISA MURDOCK

*First-Born White Children*—Mr. William Walker, who kept the ferry from the mouth of Turkey river over to Cassville, lived on the Iowa side of the river. He had a child born in 1837. A family by the name of Parks had one born before 1840, and there were two children in the Jones family born before that year. My brother, Lewis, now living in Denver, Colorado, was born March 23, 1838, near where Millville now is, in Clayton county, Iowa Territory. Julius, my youngest brother, was born in Prairie du Chien, Wis., October 1, 1840. I believe the Springer family had two children born before 1840, and the Henry Redmond family had small children also, I think. Dr. Griffeth lived on a small farm near Millville. I do not know whether he had children born in this county or not. His daughter, Nancy, was married to Joseph Quigley after we moved to Cassville.

The Oliver family, who lived on Turkey river, also had children.

It will be remembered that Oliver was hung in Cassville about the year 1839 for the shooting of a man that had worked for him, by the name of Jack Courtwright. Both men lived in Clayton county but the shooting took place in Cassville. As there were no stores in those days on the Iowa side of the Mississippi river, trading had to be done in Cassville. G. M. Price, a brother-in-law of Ben Forbes, kept the first dry goods and grocery store there. The town was composed mostly of eastern people and the society was good.

The young men of the place were: Ben Manahan, Charles Wister, Ira Libby, and two brothers, Cloves and Charles Lagrave.

#### REMINISCENCES OF GUY KINSLEY

"I believe I have split more rails than Abraham Lincoln ever saw. In early days rails and hoop poles were legal tender. The hoop poles were in demand by the flour mills and the rails for fences. The first homes were built in the timber but in the fifties the settlers began venturing out on the prairie a little beyond the woods. They dared not go further than two or three miles for, with well drills an unknown quantity, they were obliged to stay close to water. Hogs and cattle were free commoners and if you wanted to raise a crop it was necessary to fence. So we who lived in the timber as we cleared our land, split rails and sold them to the settlers out from the woods and we could sell all we could make. It was a huge undertaking to haul rails for fences and that was another reason why the settlers stayed near the timber." It was partly because his father had been given a quarter section of Iowa land in recognition of his services in the War of 1812 that Mr. Kinsley when a young man left the stony Vermont farm. "I crossed Lake Champlain by boat, then journeyed down the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes to Chicago and up to Waukegan, Wisconsin. There I shouldered my gun and set out on foot for Iowa, going first to Clinton where father's land was located. I asked the county surveyor at Clinton what the piece was worth. He answered, 'Oh, about \$500.' I wrote this back to father, saying I would pay him that much for it and stay and try to farm the land if he wanted me to. The news that a quarter section of Iowa land was valued at \$500 seemed almost incredible to Vermont people and I so had a letter from father saying if it was worth that much he guessed he'd keep it. A year later he sold for \$1700 that quarter section that \$40,000 couldn't probably buy today."

From Clinton the young emigrant went over into Wisconsin again and at Lancaster took up his tramp along the famous old trail which terminated at the mouth of the Wisconsin river. At the end of the road on the bank of the Mississippi he found a pole and a long horn. Two miles up the river a boat was to be seen tied up at McGregors Landing. Taking the hint Mr. Kinsley tied his handkerchief on the pole and blew several loud blasts on the horn. While he waited for the boat he tells how he bathed his weary feet in the waters of the Mississippi and gazed with fascinated interest at the great river and the hills opposite, little dreaming of the greatness of the State he was to help found and make his home for over sixty years. The Alexander McGregory ferry was a big flatboat propelled by horses. It was in



great demand in the fifties to carry immigrants from the Wisconsin road to McGregor's Landing where they could take the trail for northern Iowa and southern Minnesota. Often a caravan of wagons came together over the road and sent a man ahead on foot to signal the ferry. The boat's captain carried his fares in his boot leg and charged Mr. Kinsley ten cents for the service of himself, mate and two horses for three hours.

The following spring Mr. Kinsley bought 240 acres in the woods near McGregor for \$600. Twelve acres had been cleared on the piece. There was a log cabin on it and an old Indian had tapped 900 of the maple trees for sap. The next spring the wife came and the home in the woods was truly founded. The old military road from the Mississippi to Fort Atkinson, one of the best travelled trails in the state passed the cabin. It soon became noised abroad that the Kinsley house was a fine place to eat and spend the night and the little cabin became a favorite stopping place for travelers. No one was ever turned away though it often meant personal sacrifices to the family to share with them. Mr. Kinsley tells how they took care of fifteen men and hoys and 500 hogs one night. "In those days they used to trail hogs to McGregor for many miles inland," as he tells the story. "It was quite common for a herd of them and their drivers to pass along the road. They couldn't drive them horseback but had to do all the herding on foot, at the best never making more than ten miles a day. A couple of wagons were always carried along. The herders watched the hogs carefully and as soon as one showed signs of weariness he was loaded into a wagon and given a ride.

"A funny thing happened one day. A couple hundred hogs came down the road and just as they got to the turn by our house a bunch of hogs made a sudden run toward them grunting loudly. Quick as a flash the whole herd stampeded, got away from their drivers and scattered in the timber. A good many of them never were found. Hogs were very wild in those days running in the timber all day, only coming home at night to sleep. The woods were full of acorns and they thrive well on them. They did lots of good also in their ranging, because they killed great numbers of rattlesnakes. Many of the acorn-fed porkers and quantites of beans raised by the settlers in the clearings, were taken up river on the steamers to the lumber camps in the pineview."

Mr. Kinsley threshed his first wheat with a yoke of oxen, putting the bundles in a circle on the hard frozen ground and driving the animals over them. In this manner he threshed out eighty bushels in four days and he claims this is the cheapest threshing he ever did. This primitive method of threshing was not very novel to the Iowa pioneer, for he had never seen grain threshed in New England other than by hand. In telling of the little school that he and the neighbors established in the woods for their children, Mr. Kinsley relates how they paid their first teacher \$1.50 a week and board. One man teacher was given two young steers for a winter's term of teaching. The settlement that grew up around the Kinsley home is now known as Pleasant Ridge, and has developed into one of the best agricultural sections of the county. A fine farm in the vicinity is the Jersey Stock

farm of Frank Kinsley, Mr. Kinsley's eldest son and a member of the Iowa Animal Health Commission. The old military road along the ridge is now a finely kept highway and very popular for motor travel. At one point a grass grown trail branches off through the timber and descends abruptly to the banks of the Mississippi terminating at the site of the government buildings which in early days were erected for the use of the soldiers at Fort Crawford in looking after the Indians on the Iowa side. A barn with accommodation for 100 cavalry horses and an officer's home were there at the time Mr. Kinsley settled beside the military road. In the forties the soldiers used to patrol from the landing for fifty miles west of Fort Atkinson.

In 1857 the first railroad built to the Mississippi north of Dubuque was completed between Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien. Prairie du Chien immediately became the market point for all the wheat, hogs and other products of northeastern Iowa and Minnesota. Part were brought down by steamer from Minneapolis and St. Paul and intermediate points to Prairie du Chien and there transferred to the railroad. The rest were teamed to McGregor and taken across on boats in the summer and on the ice in winter. On the completion of the first railroad west of the Mississippi from McGregor to Calmar and later on up into Minnesota, the amount of produce to be transported from McGregor to Prairie du Chien grew enormously in bulk. To facilitate handling it, John Lawler, agent for the Milwaukee, Prairie du Chien railway, had barges built with railroad tracks extending from end to end of them. Approaches were constructed on either shore from the railroads to the river. Down them freight cars were run on the barges, four or five to each barge. The ferry took the car-laden boats in tow and carried them over the river. This scheme worked all right during the open season, but how to manage it in winter was another problem. To solve it John Lawler of Prairie du Chien built a pile bridge between the two towns, leaving two open spaces in the channel for passage of boats. When navigation closed in the fall a temporary bridge was thrown across these openings and through train service was established for the winter.

However, the temporary bridge had to be torn out each spring which made it inconvenient. Necessity proved once again the mother of invention and Mr. Lawler devised the scheme of lashing barges together and putting them in these openings. They were supplied with a cable and drum so that they could be swung open to allow boats to pass through. So was fashioned the first pontoon between McGregor and Prairie du Chien. Though some changes have been made since the bridge is still practically the same model as that Mr. Lawler built forty years ago.

May 11, 1871, rails were laid on the Dubuque-La Crosse division of the C. M. & St. P. as far as McGregor and the first locomotive rounded the hill and sent its shrill whistle echoing up to the joyful crowd of McGregor people who had gathered to welcome it. It was pulling the construction train which was to carry the line north along the Mississippi river from this point. During the summer of 1871 the grade was completed to Yellow river. Work was resumed early in the spring above Yellow river and the road completed to La

Crescent by the fall of 1872. The first train was a combination passenger and freight and required eight hours to make the run between Dubuque and La Crosse.

#### ELIPHALET PRICE

Eiboek, the enterprising editor of the Elkader Journal, is publishing a series of articles relating to the history of our county. Judge Price, of Guttenberg, finds some errors in the history, and he writes to his long time friend, Thomas Updegraff, Esq., as follows:

Guttenberg, April 6, 1869.

Friend Tom:—In the History of Clayton County, which is being published in the Journal, the author has fallen in to an error in regard to the locality of the first blacksmith's shop on the south side of Turkey river. There were three smiths' shops in operation upon the south side of the Turkey river at least two years before there was any inhabitant residing in the immediate vicinity of Elkader. The first smith's shop on the south side of the river was erected in August, 1836, upon the south bank of the river, near the mouth of the Henderson branch, in the northwest corner of Millville township. The logs for this shop were cut in one day by Dudley Peck and E. Price; and on the same day Captain William D. Grant made the clapboards for the roof. On the next day Thomas Van Sickle hauled the logs together, and on that day we raised the building, put on the roof, cut out the doorway, and built the furnace. A few days after Captain Grant placed in the building a full set of blacksmith's tools, and shortly after Cyrus Henderson was duly installed as the first blacksmith upon the south side of Turkey river. A day or two before the installment of "Si" took place, and Captain and myself visited the shop, which was distant about one mile from residence, and discovered that a scouting party of the racoon family had made an attack upon the building since our previous visit. The sledge hammer, the vise, and the anvil appeared to have come out of the conflict without injury, but the bellows had received a wound which had penetrated its bowels, at a point where some tallow had been placed for the purpose of softening the leather. The "Cap," who never swore except on extraordinary occasions, regarded this as one of them, and the result was the bellows was rendered invulnerable to all future attacks of the coon by an impenetrable blue streak that settled around it during the time the Captain, in a prairie-like attitude, was examining the incision.

"Si," who was about 17 years old, had acquired a literal theoretical knowledge of the Vulcanian art by blowing and striking the army shop of Colonel Taylor, at Prairie du Chien, and the earliest display of his artistic skill in the new shop was brought to bear upon a bull-plough, so-called, the first agricultural implement we had owned, and which needed a new lay. The work was commenced early in the morning, "Si," engineering and singing, and we blowing and striking, and there was no difficulty in holding the plough by the bar with the naked hand when heated, until near the close of the day, when, what remained of it, was found necessary to hold with a pair of tongs.



At length, the borax having given out, and the lay still stubbornly refusing to adhere to the plough, "Si" seized it with a herculean grasp, and whirling it around his head, sent it sparkling through the air across the shop. Then, stepping back with folded arms and sooty face, he stood and silently gazed upon the charred and mutilated plough, like Vulcan contemplating the shield of Achilles. A few stones that mark the ruins of its furnace is all that remains of the first blacksmith shop on the south side of the Turkey river. In the winter of 1836 following, a shop was opened at Elkport, and one at Millville, all of which were on the south side of the Turkey river, and were in operation three or four years before the shop was started in Elkader. Besides the three shops I have named on the south side of the river, there were two upon the north side, both older than the Henderson shop. One was erected by Robert Hatfield in the spring of 1835 and one by a manufacturer of counterfeit coin in the fall of 1834; this was the first shop in the county. The owner professed to be a blacksmith and gunsmith, but was in fact a manufacturer of bogus coin of the denomination of 50 cents. There is not now a fragment of these five shops remaining; but, what is remarkable, it is believed the five blacksmiths who first worked them are still living, and are named as follows: William Morris (bogus), Robert Hatfield, Cyrus Henderson, Robert Campbell and Frederick Hodge.

Your friend,

*Eliphalet Price.*



## CHAPTER XIX

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HISTORICAL WRITINGS OF HON. ELIPHALET PRICE,  
HON. B. W. NEWBERRY, AND OTHERS.

THE ORIGIN AND INTERPRETATION OF THE NAMES OF THE RIVERS AND  
STREAMS OF CLAYTON COUNTY—NAVIGATION ON THE TURKEY—HIS-  
TORY AND TRADITIONS OF CASS TOWNSHIP—EARLY HISTORICAL IN-  
CIDENT—THE OLD DUBUQUE ROAD—THE STORY OF BLOODY RUN.

BY HON. ELIPHALET PRICE.

WHEN time shall have thrown around the remembrance of the early settlers of Iowa, its impenetrable veil of forgetfulness, when other generations shall appear, and look out upon the natural and enduring scenery of the state, there will be inquiring minds then as now, that will seek to discover the origin and the interpretation of the names of our rivers, creeks, runs, brooks, branches and streams. And, should the antiquarian of that future period, while searching for information of this kind among the thrown-aside and mouldy volumes of some haunted attic chamber, accidentally discover this number of the annals of Iowa, he will acquire from a perusal of its pages, a knowledge of the origin and the interpretation of the names of the water-courses of so much of the state as is located in the county of Clayton, which we proceed to give by commencing at the northeastern corner of the county, with what is known as "Bloody Run." This stream is about nine miles in length, flowing in nearly an eastern direction, and emptying into the Mississippi at North McGregor. The origin of its name is as follows: Lieutenant Martin Scott of the United States Infantry, who was stationed from 1821 until 1826 at Fort Crawford, in Wisconsin, directly opposite the mouth of Bloody Run, was not only a great sportsman, but was regarded as the best hunting shot in the country, by both the white and the Indian hunter. This stream and the country adjacent to it, was his favorite hunting ground, particularly at that season of the year when the deer were mossing in the water. Before leaving the fort to cross the river, he would often observe in a jocular manner, "I am going to make the blood run today over on my hunting ground." From this circumstance, the officers and soldiers at the fort bestowed upon the stream the name of "Bloody Run," which it still retains. Lieutenant Scott, who was stationed at Fort Snelling in Minnesota, for some time previous to the Mexican war, often when recounting



his hunting adventures on Bloody Run, spoke of the stream receiving its name in the manner we have given. He was a brave and gallant officer, and was killed at the battle of Molino Del Rey.

About six miles southward from McGregor, flowing in a southeasterly direction, the "Sny Magill" discharges its waters into a slough of the Mississippi, after winding through the country a distance of seven miles. This stream takes its name from the slough into which it empties, which was originally called by the French voyageurs "Chinaille Magill," which in English would express Magill's channel or slough. Donald Magill, a Scotchman, and an Indian trader, built a trading house upon the bank of this slough near the mouth of the "Sny Magill" in the year 1814, where for several years he carried on a trade with the Sacs and Musquaque Indians. The Spaniards called this slough "The Sny Magill," and the inland stream that empties into it has taken and preserved the name. This stream is often improperly called the Sly Magill. Magill died at St. Louis about the year 1820.

Farther down the Mississippi, about six miles below the town of Clayton, "Buck Creek," after flowing a distance of nine miles in a southeasterly direction, discharges its waters also into a slough of the Mississippi. This stream received its name from William Grant in 1837. Grant was an Englishman by birth, and a millwright by trade, and while exploring the creek in search of a mill site for Robert Hatfield, who afterwards built a mill and located upon the stream, he discovered and killed a large doe while mossing in the waters of the creek, and from this circumstance called the stream Doe creek, but soon after he killed a large buck that was standing at bay against a wolf that had driven him into the creek, when the men working upon the mill suggested to him that as the buck was the larger animal, the stream ought to be called Buck creek, which he adopted, and conveyed the name of Doe creek to a small tributary near by. Grant was an ingenious mechanic, a hunter, and a bachelor, and was never more delighted than when engaged in the trapping of otter along the creek. The capture of one of these animals always furnished him with a hunter's yarn, which of a winter's evening would often stretch itself out far away towards the midnight hour. He was much respected, and died upon the creek that he had named.

About three miles below this stream, Miners' creek discharges its waters into the Mississippi, within the corporate limits of the town of Guttenberg. About 500,000 pounds of lead ore has been raised upon this stream, where mining operations are still being carried on. The discovery of lead ore here was made by Neham Dudley in 1835. The stream received its name from Daniel Justice, who erected upon it the first cabin and engaged in mining. Very soon after Mr. Justice had become permanently located thereon and bestowed upon the stream the name of Miners' creek John Murry, a rival miner, also located upon the creek, and not being upon friendly terms with Mr. Justice, endeavored to have the stream called Coon creek, and for a time it was known by both names, when, the parties meeting at Prairie la Porte under the influence of liquor, agreed to settle the controversy by a fight. Mr. Justice proving to be the victor, Miners' creek was at

once recognized as the permanent name of the stream. (Mr. Justice died at Denver City a few years since.)

About six miles below the town of Guttenberg, Turkey river discharges its waters into the main channel of the Mississippi nearly opposite the town of Cassville, Wisconsin. This river is about ninety miles in length, flowing by trunk and tributary through the counties of Howard, Winneshiek, Chickasaw, Fayette and Clayton. From the earliest acquaintance of the white trader with the different Indian tribes of the upper Mississippi, this river was recognized as being in the possession and occupancy of Saw-kee and Mus-qua-kee Indians, until the year 1832, when it passed into the possession of the United States by the treaty of Rock Island. In the treaty relations of the government of the United States with these united tribes, they are called "Sac and Foxes," which is not their national name. The Saw-kee does not call himself Sac, but Saw-kee; the word Sac has no meaning in their language, while Saw-kee signifies "the man with the red badge or emblem," red being a national or favorite color in the adornment of their persons. The Hebrew of Biblical history placed ashes upon the head when mourning for the dead. The Saw-kee during the period of mourning for the dead, covers his head with red clay, or clay colored red. Mus-qua-kee means the man with the yellow badge or emblem. These tribes could formerly be readily distinguished by the color of the adornments of their person.

The name of Fox by which the Mus-qua-kee is more generally known originated as follows: James Marquette, the Jesuit chief of a French missionary post at Green Bay, in June, 1675, started from that station in search of the Mississippi river, being accompanied by a roving French gentleman in search of adventure, by the name of Joliet, together with five French voyageurs and two Indian guides. While ascending the rapid current of Fox river with his companions in bark canoes, he found the shores of that stream inhabited by a numerous tribe of Indians calling themselves Mus-qua-kees, and the adroitness of these Indians in stealing from our worthy missionary articles of small value, prompted him to bestow upon them the name of "Reynors," from which circumstance the river acquired the name of the "Rio Reynor," and is so recorded upon the French and Spanish maps of the day. The country afterwards falling into the possession of the English the name "Reynor" assumed its English translation, which is Fox, and now without further digression, we resume the subject of this article, by saying that the name of Turkey river in the Saw-kee and Mus-qua-kee language is "Pe-na-kun-sebo." "Pena," turkey; "sebo," river.

The Winnebagoes who came upon the river from the Wisconsin after the white man had begun to settle upon it, were aware of its name in the Saw-kee language, which they translated into their own language and called it "Ce Ce Carrah-ne-bish." "Ce Ce Carrah," a turkey; "nebish," river or water. At the time the white man came upon the river in 1834, it abounded with game of every kind peculiar to the country; so numerous were the wild turkey, they were often shot from the cabin door.

A short distance below the mouth of Turkey river, Panther creek

unites its waters with the Mississippi. This stream received its name from the following hunting incident. Addison Sherill, who resided in Dubuque county near Sherill's mounds, having discovered in his barnyard one morning in the fall of 1835, the track of a panther in the snow that had fallen during the night, he immediately mounted his horse and putting his dogs upon the trail gave pursuit. The dogs, after a chase of several miles, came up with the animal on this stream, where Sherill shot and killed him. Sherill, who is now dead, was known to the early settlers of Dubuque county, not only as a great hunter, but as a master marksman with the rifle. In the spring of 1834, we saw him at the town of Peru, in Dubuque county, agree to shoot with his rifle at a grain of coffee thirty times at the distance of twenty yards, and was to receive a dollar as often as he hit it, and pay one as often as he missed it. In the thirty shots he hit the coffee grain twenty-seven times consecutively. The loss of the three last shots was attributed by his friends to some liquor at the bottom of a jug.

We now approach Plumb creek, the last and the most southern of all the streams flowing into the Mississippi from the county of Clayton. This stream received its name from John Plumb, who, in 1836, purchased out the claimants to an extensive tract of timber land, through which it flows, and commenced the building of a sawmill, which he soon after abandoned, owing to an insufficiency of water in the stream. We had some acquaintance with Mr. Plumb, and as we knew him to be the originator of the great idea of a Pacific railroad, we will venture, as an expression of respect for his memory, to briefly speak of him here in connection with that great idea. Mr. Plumb was born in Wales, in the kingdom of Great Britain, and emigrated to this country in 1821, at the age of 12 years. In the spring of 1835 he became a resident of Dubuque, and in 1837 conceived the idea of a railroad from the lakes to the Pacific ocean, and immediately commenced advocating his project through the medium of the New York and Boston press. Being in the enjoyment of a pecuniary competency, and a ready writer, possessing a high order of educational attainment, together with a fluent command of language, which enabled him to present from the public rostrum this great national theme with a display of argumentative power, convincing, pleasing and captivating, he, in the summer of 1838, convened a large public meeting at Dubuque, where, for the first time in public, he submitted his project of a railroad from the lakes to the Pacific ocean, urging upon the people of the West the importance of securing from the National Government, in aid of this work, a grant of land extending from the lakes to the Pacific ocean, before the public domain was otherwise appropriated by the government. Soon after this meeting Mr. Plumb commenced lecturing in different parts of the Union upon this subject. In the cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and throughout the West, he drew around him the mind and capital of the country, and while for a time it stood timidly aloof, startled by the gigantic character of the work, gradually it drew nearer to listen to the feasibility of his plans and the great national benefits that would result from its consummation. The public press throughout the Union began to drift cautiously into the channel of his thoughts, when the discovery



of the gold fields of California almost immediately caused his great project to burst upon the national mind as a reality to be consummated at the earliest moment. In 1849 he visited California by the overland route, leisurely viewing the country by way of the South Pass. Upon reaching the gold mines, he again resumed lecturing and writing upon this subject, giving to it the largest portion of his time, during a residence there of four years. In 1855 he returned to Dubuque, disheartened and discouraged. He had exhausted a liberal fortune in his efforts to impress the national mind with the importance of taking speedy action upon this great project; pecuniary embarrassments began to loom up and weave around him their enthrallments, when his mind, yielding to the throes of despondency, reeled from its once brilliant pathway, and sinking to the gloomy haunts of despair, with his own hand he terminated his career among men, at the city of Dubuque, in May, 1857. Such is our remembrance of John Plumb, one of Iowa's earliest pioneers and while his name is fast passing away from a national remembrance, it may live in the babbling murmurs of the little stream we have recorded, as long as its rippling waters shall abide in its forest solitude by the drooping foliage of the elm, the linden and the mountain ash.

Having given the origin and interpretation of the names of those streams which empty into the Mississippi along the eastern boundary of the county, we now approach the tributaries of Turkey river, which are more numerous and which permeate a larger area of the county. About one mile from the mouth of Turkey river, a small but beautiful stream empties into it, after winding its way for the distance of four miles among the rugged timbered hills that recede away towards the south. Upon reaching the river bottom, its waters become silent, deep and of a bluish color, and in winding its clear, cold and sluggish course through the river bottom, it forms almost a circle, from which circumstance it is known by the name of "Blue Belt;" having received this name from Colonel William W. Wayman, who was the first white man that settled in the county, having erected a cabin near the mouth of this stream in the fall of 1833. Colonel Wayman, who died a number of years since, we shall refer to more fully when we reach the stream that preserves his name.

About a mile further up the river, there is a small stream also flowing from the south and named in honor of Joseph B. Quigley, who in 1836 made a claim location upon the river bottom through which it winds. Mr. Quigley is still a resident of the county, being numbered among the most prosperous and affluent farmers in Highland township, on the western boundary of the county. We have never met with a person whose mechanical genius was more versatile and variable than his. During his early years as a resident of the county, he was a millwright, a tailor, a cabinetmaker; milliner, shoemaker, carpenter, cooper, blacksmith, boat builder, weaver, wagon-maker, and we have seen him cut and make a calico dress for a woman. In all these varied arts he was recognized as a master workman. Soon after he married and became a father, he undertook to invent a new and more convenient diaper for a child, and failed; since then his mind has been almost wholly given to agricultural and horticultural

pursuits. Like the few remaining early settlers of the county, time has touched his locks, and they are fast whitening under its influence.

A short distance farther up the river, Little Turkey empties its waters into the parent stream, after flowing from the south through a timbered country for the distance of eight miles—its source being in the county of Delaware. The towns of Millville and Jefferson are situated upon this stream, together with several flour and saw mills. It received its name from Arthur Rowen, who erected a sawmill at Millville in 1835, being the first mill in the county. Mr. Rowen, while exploring the country in search of a mill site, came upon this stream at a time when its banks were overflowing by rains, giving it a width and impetuosity almost equal to the parent stream, from which circumstance he called it "Little Turkey River."

A mile further up the river, a small stream empties into it from the south, known as "Redman's Branch." This stream took its name from Henry Redman, who settled upon the river bottom near its mouth in 1834. He was the first white man who brought his wife and family into the county; being about forty years of age, he was the oldest resident of the county at that time. His cabin door stood always open to the unfortunate and the stranger, who were greeted with a kindly welcome and liberal hospitality. He was a thin wiry man, of great muscular powers, and was regarded during his earlier years as the best fighting man in the lead mines. The fingers of his hands were crooked by mastication, while his arms, face and shoulders showed many scars made by the lacerating teeth of his opponents. In later years he became an active and zealous member of the Methodist church, and often at class meetings, while recounting the scenes of his early life with expressions of sorrow and regret, he would straighten up his bent form, shake his silvery locks, and conclude by saying: "But, brothers and sisters, thank God I was never whipped." The day before he died, at his request, many of the early settlers convened at his residence. It was a Sabbath morn in early autumn; the crimson leaf of the maple was fast eddying its way to the ground, and rustled in the forest pathway that led up the little eminence to his home that overlooked the waters of Turkey river; Doctor Griffith, one of the number, offered up an excellent and appropriate prayer; a psalm was sung; the scenes of other days talked over. At length the parting hour came, when each approached his bed, took him by the hand and bid him farewell, and as each turned away from the scene, tears could be seen coursing along the pathways that time had furrowed upon the cheeks of Clayton's pioneers.

Upon the north side of the river, a short distance above the last named stream, may be seen a small rivulet known as "Park's Branch." This stream takes its name from Thomas P. Park, who settled here in 1838. Captain Park was one of the early sheriffs of the county—a man of fine personal appearance and gentlemanly address; he was kind hearted, benevolent and hospitable, officiating occasionally as a preacher of the Baptist persuasion. In 1840, we saw him at Coulie-de-Sue, on the Mississippi, in an unfinished building, which was being erected by Messrs. Jones and Bass, win the entire funds of a faro bank, which was being operated under the financial manage-

ment of a professional banker from Galena, and on the following Sabbath we heard him deliver an able and excellent sermon upon the vice and evils of gambling, to a congregation of his neighbors convened at the house of Henry Redman, on Turkey river, distant some thirty miles from the scene of the bank disaster. He was a man of fluent address and varied attainments, and was much respected by his neighbors as well as greeted with kindly feelings by all who knew him. He died a number of years since upon the stream that preserves his name.

About two miles further up the river, a small stream empties into it from the south, known as the "Henderson Branch." This stream takes its name from Cyrus Henderson, who, in 1836, erected a blacksmith shop upon the river bottom near its mouth. There being but a few settlers in the neighborhood to give him employment, he soon abandoned the place. He was a boy when he started this enterprise, but now his locks have whitened, and the ring of his anvil may still be heard among the echoes of the high hills in Millville township, that overlook the sequestered valley and the winding stream that ripples by his home.

A short distance above this stream Peck's Branch unites its waters with the Turkey, after flowing in a northerly direction a distance of eight miles, through high mountainous hills covered with a dense and heavy growth of timber. This stream takes its name from Dudley Peck, who located upon the river bottom near its mouth in 1835. He was a young man from western New York, and as a hunter had no superior in the country. Up to the period of his death, he persistently refused to hunt with a gun having a percussion lock, always using the old fashioned flintlock rifle, whose superior qualities he would often defend by referring to the achievements of Cooper's heroes, Hawkeye, Leatherstocking and the Trapper. No argument could subdue his aversion to a shotgun; on one occasion, while dining with him at his bachelor cabin, a person from Cassville came in with a double barrel shotgun, which he stood up against the chimney jamb. Peck immediately arose from the table and observed, "Stranger, if you have no objections I will place your gun outside of my cabin;" which he did without waiting for a reply, and then invited the stranger to "sit up and eat." Towards the close of his days, he was afflicted with a painful, lingering disease, which he knew was to terminate his life, and on one occasion, while brooding over the certainty of his never again being able to hunt, he expressed to us with much feeling his regret at never having killed a panther; he seemed unwilling to die before he had added this achievement to the many victories he had obtained over the animals of the forest. He was our earliest, nearest neighbor, and many have been the pleasant wintry evenings that we have sat by the huge log fire of his cabin and listened to the thrilling details of his hunting adventures.

Directly opposite Peck's Branch, flowing from the north, is a small stream known as "Price's Branch." This stream takes its name from the writer of this article, who settled here in 1835 and who afterwards located at the source of the stream upon the highland prairie. As there is nothing in the history of this person that is not



common to other men, we pass on to the Carlin creek, distant about one mile further up the river. This stream, flowing from the south, takes its name from William Carlin, who located here in 1836, and soon after abandoned the place. Mr. Carlin was born and raised upon the frontier, and was a hunter by profession; he could neither read nor write, and was a nephew of Governor Carlin, of Illinois. He died a number of years since.

Our last communication having closed with the origin of the name of Carlin creek, we find upon resuming the subject that we have now reached the waters of Cedar creek, a stream rising on the highland prairie in the vicinity of the town of Garnavillo, and flowing southward until it reaches the waters of the Turkey, distant about ten miles from the source of the creek. For several miles this stream flows through a narrow valley bounded upon each side by high mountainous hills, covered with a dense growth of timber. It received its name from John Finley, who in the summer of 1834, made an exploration of the stream with a view to a discovery of its manufacturing powers; finding the sides and craggy summits of its high hills canopied by a luxuriant growth of the red cedar he gave to the stream the name of Cedar creek. There is a tributary of this stream known by the name of Read's branch; this stream received its name from Robert R. Read, who settled upon the prairie at the head waters of the branch in 1839. Captain Read will long be remembered as the popular clerk (for many years) of the Board of County Commissioners, when that power was in existence, and subsequently for many years clerk of the District Court. In consideration of his many years of faithful official service, the Hon. Judge Williams, when defining the boundaries of the civil townships of the county, bestowed upon the most central one of them the name of "Read Township." Captain Read was an Englishman by birth and for many years a resident of the frontier; he had seen the march of civilization approach him from the east, and heard the first echoes of the woodman's axe reverberate among the forest solitudes of Iowa "as westward it took its way." He died a few years since at Garnavillo and was honored with Masonic rites of burial, being a member of that fraternity.

About three miles above the mouth of Cedar creek, the Wayman branch coming from the south unites its waters with the Turkey. This stream received its name from Colonel William W. Wayman, who was the first white man that settled in the county of Clayton. He was a native of New Hampshire, a man of liberal education and polished manners; in his habits and in the expression of his face, it was easy to detect one of those freaks of human nature that occasionally appears among the descendants of the Pilgrims of New England disturbing the purity of the Saxon blood by portraying in every lineament the American characteristics of the Nar-agan-set of the Wam-pa-noag. Among white men he was reticent, watchful and restless. In the society of the Indian, he was authoritative, stern and commanding. He never performed any manual labor other than that which pertained to the indoor affairs of his house. The Indian, the half-breed and the hunter, regarded him as a mysterious being; they would toil and labor for him without any other reward than the pleasure of being near his

person. The largest portion of his lifetime had been spent upon the frontier in the society of the Indian and the hunter, and yet he could never be prevailed to give any information concerning the Indians, their manners and customs, or traditions. The intimacy and social intercourse that we had with him for a number of years on the border, only seemed to render more impenetrable the shield of mystery that he had woven around the events of his life. He was the father of a half-breed daughter, whom he educated.

To detail the discoveries that we made in after years concerning the history of this person, would be too voluminous and romantic for the historical columns of the annals.

In the fall of 1845, about the midnight hour of a dreary day, we received from the hands of an Indian runner, the following communication: "Come quick, I am dying. Ann will give you my keys.—W. W. Wayman."

We hastened to him, but he was dead when we reached his residence. The keys unlocked, in part, the history of a strange adventurous life, and told us that his name was "William Wallace Hutcherson," a descendant of the Mayflower. Above the Wayman branch the waters of Elk creek after flowing in a northerly direction about eight miles, empty into the Turkey. This stream received its name from Louis Reynolds, who in the summer of 1834, while exploring the creek in search of a mill site, came upon a herd of elk that were mossing in its waters, from which circumstance he named the stream Elk creek. Reynolds was a bachelor of a romantic turn of mind, who manifested on all social occasions, the most extravagant politeness. His educational attainments seemed to center in a knowledge of Goethe's "Sorrows of Werter," a small volume of which he constantly carried about his person, and which had been so liberally saturated with coon's oil and deer's tallow, that much of its contents had become wholly obliterated. Enough, however, remained to enable him, as he believed, to triumph in discussion, no matter what the subject might be. In the fall of 1835, near the close of a day's hunt, we came upon his cabin situated upon the Blue Belt, and was invited to place our rifle on the gun rack. During the early part of the evening an Indian came in with a ham of venison which he wished to exchange for corn meal. Reynolds had just succeeded in extracting a splinter from beneath the nail of one of his fingers, which had become located there while in the act of scraping from the bottom of his meal barrel material sufficient to make a dodger for two, and accordingly the Indian could not be accommodated. But as Reynolds stood in need of the venison, it occurred to him that he could satisfy the Indian by reading to him a page or two from his inexhaustible book, "The Sorrows of Werter." Accordingly he took the ham, hung it up, and after seating the Indian upon a keg, squatted himself down in the chimney corner, where, by leaning in a sideling manner towards the blaze of the fire, he was enabled to read from the Teutonic volume, occasionally pausing to explain and gesticulate away the difficulties that seemed to obscure the latent beauties of some flowing passage. The Indian who could understand nothing, had fixed his eyes intently upon the fire, while his mind seemingly in its efforts to grasp the subject, had plunged into the most

profound thought upon some other theme. Reynolds after having amply paid for the ham, as he believed, arose, and taking the Indian by the arm led him to the door, where with profuse display of politeness, he thanked him for the venison. The Indian after casting a sorrowful glance back in the direction of the meat, departed.

Now Reynolds had but one shirt in the world, a calico garment with an ample display of ruffles running perpendicularly through the center of its bosom, and having learned that a family would locate in his neighborhood in a few days, among which there was a female of an attractive character, he at once determined to be ready to receive them; accordingly he had just completed the washing of his shirt in the creek and had hung it upon a bush to dry. In the morning the garment was gone. The few moccasin tracks in the vicinity of the bush, bespoke the visitation of an Indian, incapable of appreciating the "Sorrows of Werter." Reynolds soon after left the country.

There is a tributary of the Elk known as Wolf creek. It received its name from Dennis Quigley, who was the first settler upon the stream. During the first evening of his residence here, a surprise party of wolves called upon the few sheep that he had brought with him, and welcomed them to their new home. From which circumstance he honored the creek with the name of its inhabitants.

About a mile above the Elk, Volga river unites its waters with the Turkey. This stream which is about thirty-five miles in length, rises in the center of Fayette county. During the early settlement upon the country it was known by the name of the South Fork of Turkey. In 1836 when M. Lyon established by survey the township lines of northern Iowa, he bestowed upon it the name of Volga river, which was adopted by the settlers of the county. It is one of the most beautiful streams of northern Iowa. There are a number of towns and villages situated upon its banks, among which none more prominent than the town of Fayette in Fayette county. It is here that the North Iowa University is situated. The stream is sometimes called Classic Volga, from the following literary incident. A student from Wisconsin attending the university, had prepared a poem to be delivered at the closing exhibition of the institute. His fellow students who had manifested some skepticism as to the arcadian qualities of the people of Wisconsin, stood all on envious tip-toe, eager to hear its sentiment and delivery, while Professor Brush who had just been inaugurated, felt that the moaning pine forests of Wisconsin, pausing for a time to recuperate among the ample fisheries of the state, that it might take its way with wider, loftier flight through town and hamlet—westward, ho! The Badger Boy proud of his native state, self-poised and confident, ascended the rostrum and commenced his poetic essay as follows:

"There where the classic Volga goes  
With logs and sticks and overflows,  
And in the farmhouse runs its nose—

Here the professor commenced coughing so loud and incessant that nothing more of the poem could be heard. Sufficient, however,



was preserved to secure for our beautiful Volga the proud literary prefix, "Classic."

A short distance from the mouth of the Volga, there is a tributary known as Bear creek; it received its name from the following hunting incident. Missouri Dixon and his brother Samuel having started a large bear in the timber of Turkey river in the winter of 1838, followed its footprints in the snow until they reached the vicinity of this stream, where they separated, Missouri following the trail and his brother making a circuit in the hope of meeting the bear. Soon after they parted Missouri came up with the animal, which had coiled down to sleep beneath an overhanging ledge of rock. He fired and wounding the bear, it immediately turned upon him, when he fled in the direction of the creek. Dixon was wont to tell the adventure thus: "For a half mile there was something more than daylight between us, and if Sam hadn't fired just as I was crossing the creek, there would have been an old bear hunter spoilt."

A short distance above Bear creek, Doe creek unites its waters with the Volga. This stream received its name from Benjamin Smith, an experienced hunter, who during his first hunting visit to the stream, killed a doe while in the act of leaping across it; this incident gave to the creek the name it bears.

Two miles further up, the Volga receives the waters of Honey creek. Dennis Quigley who abandoned a brief home upon Wolf creek, in consequence of the hostility of its inhabitants to the wool-growing business, established his permanent home upon this stream, where he still resides. The great quantity of honey found in the forest trees adjacent to the creek prompted him to bestow upon it the name of Honey creek. Dennis, who is a genuine Yankee, disguised under an Hibernian cognomen, has held many official positions with credit to himself and the county. The young swarm that has gone forth from his apiary, have settled around the old gum, and are waxing rich in worldly possessions, as well as acting their part with credit to the parent hive.

A little further on, we hear the rippling sound of Hewet's creek as it comes through the forest to swell the waters of the Volga. This stream received its name from Joseph Hewet, who settled upon its headwaters in 1839. At the time of his settlement here, the nearest resident to him was distant about eighteen miles. Hewet was born and raised upon the frontier of Missouri, and was a hunter in the full and rounded acceptance of the word. We knew him early and well. Among the many hunters of the border with whom we have been acquainted, he alone could have stood forth as the representative of Cooper's ideal hero of the pioneers. He would often say to us with a dejected expression of the face: "The country will soon be overrun with settlers and all game driven towards the west." As the settlements drew near to him, he listened for a time to the distant tinkling of the cowbell, and then mournfully shouldering his rifle, turned towards the setting sun, calling to his companions, "Here pups, away dogs, ye'll be foot sore afore ye see the ind of your journey."

A short distance above this stream we meet the waters of Nagle's branch, which receives its name from John Nagle, who located here

about the year 1841, being the first settler in that part of the county. Mr. Nagle is still in the occupancy of his early location here, and has been eminently successful as a practical farmer. The little stream that bears his name, will preserve to posterity many pleasing reminiscences of one of Clayton's earliest pioneers.

Mink creek, after winding its way through a liberal portion of the county of Fayette, plunges into the Volga within the limits of Clayton, a few yards from the boundary, the largest portion of this stream being in the county of Fayette. The origin of its name cannot be traced outside of the archives of that county, which are securely kept in an iron chest.

We now return to the mouth of the Volga, to resume our way along the windings of the Turkey. In ascending the waters of the Turkey river, from its junction with the Volga, the first tributary that we meet is Panther creek, having its source at the eastern extremity of Panther mound, and flowing from thence northward a distance of about four miles. With the exception of Turkey river, this stream is the only one in the county that retains its Indian name, translated into English. Oliver Phelps, an Indian trader from western New York, who had a trading post at the mouth of the Volga in 1835, became acquainted with the Indian name of this stream through his Indian hunters and, in translating it, called it Painter creek, by which name it is still called by many of the early settlers. The animal represented in the name of this stream is generally, throughout New England and western New York, called a painter; along the valley of the Mississippi it is known as the panther; in Pennsylvania, and throughout the Cumberland range of mountains, it is commonly called the catamount, or cat of the mountain, which is perhaps the most appropriate name, as the word panther is a generic term, and applies to the entire family or genus of animals which are of a spotted character. These animals were quite numerous along the waters and in the forest of Turkey river as late as 1839, and were of a tawny red in summer, changing to a dark steel gray in winter. The Indian tradition, that has handed down the name of this stream, relates that at a distant period of time, an Indian family that had encamped near the mouth of the creek, were attacked in the nighttime by a panther, and a small child, belonging to the family, seized and carried away. From this circumstance the creek was regarded by the Indians as an unlucky stream, and avoided as a camping ground, it being under the control of the evil spirit. In proof of which there were many evidences given by the Indians, which to rehearse here, would lengthen this article beyond its proper limit.

A few miles above this stream Pony creek unites its water with the Turkey. This stream rises in the counties of Fayette and Winnescheik, and enters the county under the name of Roberts' creek, which it retains for several miles, when it disappears, and after running under ground about two miles, reappears under the name of Pony creek. John Roberts, from whom the northern part of this stream takes its name, became its first resident in 1839. He was a young man of some education—a bachelor and an atheist. Upon a shelf that ranged over his fireplace, might be seen a few smoky volumes, con-

sisting of the Bible, Volney's Ruins, Paine's Age of Reason, and a part of the works of Voltaire. He had pored over these volumes, until he had become so familiar with their contents, that it seemed like an easy matter for him to vanquish, in Biblical controversy, an uneducated opponent. He was a calm, unexcitable, good-natured fellow; nothing delighted him so much, as a controversy with one of those gospel pioneers, that were often met with in those days upon the border, calling to repentance and a remembrance of the Sabbath day. These gospel heralds, were often converted hunters, who, having provided themselves with a hymn book and Bible, a tin horn and an Indian pony, meek with years, and lowly in flesh, would sally forth along the border, hewing away the roughness of the pioneer, that he might be prepared for the coming of a more educated ministry. As this personage was a prominent character in the early settlement of Turkey river, and has long since passed away with the hunter and the Indian, we will here (preliminary to the re-introduction of Roberts) give the exordium of a sermon delivered at a temporary revival on Turkey river in 1836, by our old and much-respected friend, Uncle Joe Clark:

"Brothers and Sisters: The sarmin that I shell talk on is about this, 'Remember the Sabbath day, an' keep it holy.' Now, my friends, it were last Saterdag nite, when Ike Miller santered over to my cabin, an' sez he, 'Uncle Joe, spose we take a coon hunt ter nite, an' sez I, 'Agreed.' I were allers mighty fond a coon hunten, an' so we tuk down on Little Turkey, an' arter santeren around thru the timber, an' shyen keerfully along up the creek, an' the moon hed got smartly up, an' nary coon out, we kinder lean'd to'ards hum, when Ike's dog opened, on spoon-run with his nateral yelp, and arter we got tha, the coon hed tuk a hackberry, an Ike hed chopt his foot right smart the day afore helpen Ole Man Springer throw a bee-tree and so it kinder fell on me to go up arter the coon, an when I got up tu were the critter sot, in the upper forks, an were about to grab him by the tail and slat him down, there was a gospel feelin' cum over me rite smartly, an sez I, 'Ike, 'bout what time mite it be?' an' sez he, 'Why, Uncle Joe, I reckon its close tu mornin;' an sez I, 'If that's so, it's the Sabbath day, and this here coon may go,' an so I clum down agin. An now, Brothers and Sisters, that's what the scripter sez, 'Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy,' coon or no coon."

Here Uncle Joe gave a toot on his horn, took a drink from a tin cup and then launched forth with his sermon, the theology of which, bore a close resemblance to its exordium.

Uncle Joe was always a welcome guest at our cabin; and on one occasion, while we were preparing for him its evenings hospitalities, Roberts came in, being on his way home from Dubuque. He had hardly become seated, when Uncle Joe, turning towards him, threw his head downward, so as to bring his gaze to bear from over the top of his spectacles, and after eyeing him for a moment, he observed, "Young man, do you believe in the soundings of the gospel horn?"

Roberts paused for a moment to make a survey of the source from which this unexpected question came, and then led off with a reply, that soon run into a warm Biblical discussion. The old man, who would get a little confused occasionally, would stop short, give a toot



upon his horn, the gospel soundings of which would seem to arouse him up, when he would start off anew, with seemingly more clear and vigorous ideas. Presently, Roberts began to weave around him the network of his atheistical doctrines, and at length having got the old man in a tight place, Uncle Joe began to breathe heavy, and struggle under a liberal flow of perspiration, when, in the midst of a sentence, he came to a silent halt. Turning to look upon him, we discovered that a cloud of wrath had settled upon his brow, which was fast spreading downward over the features of his face, and as it culminated upon his quivering lip, he sprang to his feet, and bringing his fists together, exclaimed: "You ongodly hethen, I ken lick more salvation inter yer in two minits then ye desurve, and I'll do it." Thereupon, Uncle Joe began to throw his buckskin, when Roberts made the outlet of the cabin and down the alley going to the door, and throwing out upon the stillness of the night a blast of triumph from his horn, when he observed, "I know'd when I got riled up, I could make that ungodly hethen take water mity quick. Yer see, capt'n, (bringing his fist down on the table) the gospel will win every time, if yer only give her a fair show."

The origin of the name of Pony creek, is traced to the following incident: A person by the name of Gool, having settled upon the creek in 1840, and commenced the opening of a farm, soon after began to observe a decrease in the number of his pigs and chickens, and, upon giving to the cause a proper investigation, he discovered that it was owing to his farm being located near an encampment of Indians, who continued to increase their indebtedness, until it had culminated with the last chicken and a solitary pig, in whose prospective family, Gool had fondly cherished the hope of restoring that branch of his agricultural pursuits. It was this incident that prompted him to bring about a settlement with the Indians, which he did by quietly levying upon two of their ponies, and conveying them to Illinois, where he exchanged them for cattle, with which he returned to his farm, and was enabled to make a display of prosperity that loomed proudly above the more tardy climbings of his conscientious neighbors. To perpetuate a remembrance of this sudden prosperity of Gool, his neighbors bestowed upon the stream that flowed by his door, the name of Pony creek.

There is a tributary of this stream, known as the Dry Mill branch. It received its name from a sawmill built upon the stream by Elisha Boardman, in 1837, under the millwright direction of Horace Brownson. During the erecting of the mill, there appeared to be an ample supply of water for creating the power necessary for working its machinery; but when the mill and dam were completed, and the flow of the stream arrested, the weight of water in the dam forced an underground passage through the rocky bed of the creek so formidable that the mill was abandoned without having rendered any service whatever. Mr. Boardman and Brownson were the two first settlers in that part of the county, having located there in 1836. They were formerly the proprietors of the principal part of the land upon which the town of Elkader is located, and where they are both still residing, at an

advanced period of life, respected by all who knew them, as pioneers of "thirty years ago."

About seven miles above Pony creek, are the far-famed "Big Springs," of Turkey river, being two in number, and but a short distance apart. The largest of these springs has been estimated to yield six hundred gallons per minute. They come from the base of a bluff, upon the north side of the river, and move with a deep and sluggish flow through a prairie bottom, but a few yards, when they unite with the waters of the river. They are regarded as a great natural curiosity, and are often visited by strangers, who find them but a short drive from Elkader, along the valley of the Turkey.

While pursuing the windings of the Volga, in our last article, we omitted to mention the name of Cox creek, a stream that flows into the Volga from the south, and gives its name to the township through which it winds. This stream received its name from Joseph Cox, who erected a cabin near its mouth in 1839, where he resided but a few months, and then withdrew from the country. After many inquiries, we have not been enabled to discover any person in that neighborhood who knew him. We were at his cabin about the time he located there, and remember him as a small man who claimed to be a hunter.

There is a stream known as "Hickory creek," which flows across the northern boundary of the county, near the center of the town of Hardin, and empties into the Yellow river, in the county of Allamakee. This stream received its name from Graham Thorn, the founder of the village of Sodom, which, previous to a visit from the United States cavalry, under command of Captain Summer, stood upon the boundary of the neutral land near this stream.

Thorn was a contraband trader with the Indians—a principal proprietor, and the first and only mayor of Sodom. He was also a zealous Jackson man, and was in the habit of calling inanimate things around him by the name of "Old Hickory." His sled, ox-yoke, wagon, or hat, were alike generally addressed by the name of "Old Hickory." Being at Sodom soon after an Indian payment in 1840, when the town was crowded with traders, gamblers, teamsters and Indians, some person during the night, preliminary to relieving an Indian of his annuity, had taken the precaution to quiet any objections he might raise, by knocking out his brains with a hatchet. Thorn, while looking upon the dead Indian the next morning, addressed him as follows: "Well, Old Hickory, you've gone up, have yer; yer orter kept yer eye skin'd, old feller. There's folks around here that act as though they warn't brought up decently; and, boys, this thing must be stopped."

We have now concluded our remembrance of the origin of the names of the rivers and streams of Clayton county. It is now years since we first looked upon them winding their way silently through the prairie and the forest. We have seen the pioneer hunter approach them, and have heard the first echoes of his axe and rifle. We have partaken of his hospitality, and sat by the blazing fire of his hearth and listened to the story of his life. We have held to his fevered lips the cooling waters of the babbling spring, and have raised his emaciated form from its straw couch that he might, for the last time, look out upon the forest-clad hills of Turkey river, the scenes of his many

hunting exploits and we have often helped to round up the little hillock that marked for a time the last resting place of the hunter, who, if living, would tell you that he had learned, amid the solitude of the forest and the prairie, that there is a God.

#### NAVIGATION ON THE TURKEY

*By Eliphalet Price*

The following interesting account of the early navigation of Clayton county's principal river is from the pen of F. Snedigar, an old settler and an eye witness: "The first boating done on Turkey river was by Thompson, Sage & Davis, who, after completing their mill at Elkader, in 1849, found upon their hands a surplus of flour, with no roads to convey it over to the Mississippi, and but few boats there to convey it to market; and in order to remedy this great inconvenience in those days, they purchased a good keel boat. By great perseverance and muscular energy they would push the boat up the Turkey to the mill, load it with flour and float down to Cassville or Dubuque, meeting with many difficulties and having many narrow escapes.

"In the spring of 1850, they had brought their boat up to the mill and had loaded it to its full capacity with barrels of flour. All hands were ordered on board preliminary to the commencement of the perilous voyage. Captain Sage would trust no one but himself to loose the cable and launch the boat upon the turbid waters of the old Turkey. He was a better miller than boatman, however, and he let the boat swing out where the current caught the broadside. Captain Sage held on to the cable and the boat went under, coming out bottom uppermost, flour and all hands rolling and tumbling in the water. The few inhabitants of the town being mostly present to witness the departure of Captain Sage and his cargo, speedily rushed to the rescue, and after much toil saved the men, boat and flour, all in a somewhat damaged condition. This was the last boating done by Captain Sage on the Turkey. Mr. Thompson continued to pilot out boats thus loaded until 1851, when they had a very passable road to Clayton City, and the flour was thenceforth taken in a wagon across the country.

"In the spring of 1851 Michael Keen and his two sons, George and Adam, started the first steam engine in Elkader, and with this beginning they started a foundry. This was afterwards removed to Clayton City, but while it was at Elkader Adam Keen built two small engines and then constructed a steamboat to run on the Turkey. It was called Elkader No. 1, and was launched May 1, 1854. On its trial trip it was loaded with passengers, and all went well on the trip going down. They descended the river as far as Motor (then Hasting's bottom), and were there obliged to turn back on account of the dam, which had been built the summer previously. The boat then steamed up the river as far as Michael Stence's farm, where, the water being swift, they could go no farther and were obliged to tie up. Some of the passengers accepted of Mr. Stence's hospitality, and the rest undertook to find their way home on foot. The distance home was but two and a half miles, but they were not allowed to traverse this distance



without hindrance. The elements seemed to disregard the deplorable condition of this unfortunate crew. Night now came on, and with it one of those heavy rains so common at this season of the year commenced pouring down in torrents, all the artillery of the heavens belching forth their awful thunders upon the unprotected heads of those sturdy pioneers who were now in the midst of the dense forest skirting Turkey river between Elkader and Stence's farm, drenched inside and out. Finally, by the aid of the lightning flashes, a part made their way back to the hospitable roof of Mr. Stence, while the remainder, after fruitless attempts to reach home, sat down and patiently awaited the dawn of another day. The prospect must have been dark indeed, at least so far as the navigation of the Turkey was concerned.

"Thus ended the first trip of the Elkader No. 1. But the hardships of pioneer life had instilled too much grit into Captain Keen and the settlers of Turkey river valley to give up thus. To encourage the enterprise, E. G. Rolf, merchant of the village, offered Captain Keen one barrel of 'tanglefoot,' provided he would land his boat at the rear of his store. This being some inducement, and the captain's pluck being challenged, he determined to land her there or land her in ——! Getting a good supply of dry wood on board and an experienced fireman, steam was once more raised, and up the river came the little craft. The news was brought to town by some footmen that the steamer was coming. All was confusion and anxiety. Every eye was on the lookout, and at about one o'clock she hove in sight, making at least twenty rods per hour, and finally making a very respectable landing at the rear of Mr. Rolf's store, where the tanglefoot was all ready and received the hearty congratulations of all on board.

"The new enterprise now being considered safe, Captain Keen announced the departure of his boat at four P. M. for Hasting's bottom and intermediate points. At precisely the appointed time, the steamer left Elkader on her second trip for Hasting's bottom, Captain Keen serving as commanding officer, engineer and fireman, and Michael pilot. The passengers were: Mr. Ellis and wife, D. Daniels, and F. Snedigar, whose curiosity in the navigation of the Turkey was effectually and perfectly satisfied for all time to come, as the sequel will show. The principal freight consisted of the barrel of 'tanglefoot,' which stood out in bold relief on the bow of the boat, little dreaming of the imminent danger awaiting it of being submerged in the waters of old Turkey. Gliding along down the beautiful river under a gentle head of steam, the passengers and the crew became all absorbed with the beautiful scenery surrounding them. On either side the bluffs rose in towering majesty, the slopes of which were all ablaze with the bright rays of the sun, while all along the shore was thickly studded with gorgeous flowers of every hue, sending forth on the gentle breeze their sweetest perfume.

"Thus they glided along for a mile, when in making a shore bend in the river the little craft brought up suddenly on a sandbar. In an instant all their happy contemplations were gone and they realized the uncomfortable situation of then and there being bar-bound to all intents and purposes, without capstan, spars, or any of the necessary tackle used by other boats on such occasions. Notwithstanding their

deplorable situation, there was relief at hand in the persons of their gallant captain and pilot, the latter having had some sad experience in early days on the Turkey. One adventure of his, as related by him in person, we will here digress long enough to relate:

"Michael Stence was one of the first settlers in the Turkey valley and in the absence of roads the river was the surest route to follow from one point to another in the vicinity of it. He had business down at the settlement at the mouth of the Volga. Being there detained until near night and not wishing to get lost he took the river shore for his guide home, two and a half miles below Elkader. When about half way home, darkness coming on, he discovered something in his path. Supposing it to be a wolf or some other wild animal, he pushed on until within a few feet of it, when a terrible scream from the animal assured him that it was a panther of immense size. Being aware of its mode of attack he knew that there was no time for parley, but plunged with all his power into the river, and made quick time to the channel. The panther, though not daring to attack him there, seemed determined not to be thus cheated, but followed up on land, while Mr. Stence made slow progress in the strong current, but, by dint of hard struggling, he made his way within hearing of home, and calling his trusty dogs to his relief, reached home a little before daylight; and, notwithstanding his hardships, he said he could then and there whip any panther that inhabited the Turkey valley, with half a dozen wild-cats thrown in.

"After remaining a few moments on the bar, Captain Keen and Pilot Stence both jumped overboard, each having a good-sized lever or hand-stick, and by a few well-directed efforts the boat was shoved off into the channel, and away she went, wholly at the mercy of the waves, the captain and the pilot both being at the time off regular duty. Just then came a pesky elm tree, which had stretched its trunk in a horizontal position right over the river, just elevated enough to rake close to the top of the boat, but all efforts to steer clear of the tree were of no avail. Crash! it came, sweeping smoke-stacks and scape-pipes before it. Amid the falling chimneys on the hurricane deck stood Daniels and Snedigar, in utmost danger of being crushed beneath the falling chimneys or swept overboard by the tree, the stream enveloping them in a perfect cloud. Screams came from the lady passengers in the cabin, and such a time comes only on such occasions. The boat was badly wrecked and all hands badly scared, but no one killed, or in the least hurt. Floating along the current some miles they finally made a landing at the mouth of Pony creek, where the passengers all disembarked and went their way, rejoicing in the fact of being once more upon terra firma. Captain Keen ran his boat near Mr. Stence's and laid up for repairs. He worked energetically to put the boat in repair, and July 4 made one more effort to run up to Elkader, but the water being low and no inducement being held out to him he failed to come to time. He then made preparations to run out to the Mississippi, and here was an obstacle to meet. The mill dam at Hastings was in the way and must be overcome. Not to be outdone, Captain Keen called to his assistance an old, hard pioneer from near Elkport, and they cut one section of the dam out, regardless of consequences. They ran the

gauntlet and reached the mouth of the Turkey in safety. The captain made one or two trips to Dubuque with his boat, and then ran her up to Clayton City, where he sold her to Frank Smith & Co., of that place. They remodeled the boat and made a ferry boat of it for crossing the Mississippi at that point. Thus closed the steam navigation of the Turkey."

## HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF CASS TOWNSHIP

*By Hon. B. W. Newberry*

Cass township was organized as a separate township in 1850. The following is the official order of the county commissioners:

"January 8, 1850. Ordered that the petition of William Alloway and others praying to be set off into a township of the following dimensions, to-wit: including township 91 north, range 6 west, 5th P. M., be and is hereby allowed, and that the first election be held at the house of James Alloway in said township, and further that James Alloway, Joshua Betts and Wm. Alloway are appointed judges of the first election and that the township shall be called Cass, and the clerk is hereby instructed to notify the citizens of said township of the proceedings of the Board.

"A. S. COOLEY,

"J. W. POTTS,

"ROBT. R. REED, *Clerk.*"

According to the code of 1843 the annual election was held the first Tuesday in October. We have no record at our command of the first election but it is said that the ballot box was the hat of one of the judges, and that the election was held as ordered at the house of James Alloway, which was on the farm now occupied by Miles Alderson, about half a mile northeast of Strawberry Point. This house is also notable as being where the first marriage in Cass township occurred: James Dickenson, a widower who lived on the place now owned by Alex Henry in Sperry township was married to Malissa, daughter of James Alloway, the Reverend N. W. Bixby officiating. The date of this marriage was May 12, 1850. The bride was the only marriageable woman in the township. A goodly number of relatives and friends were present. The table was a split log with legs inserted and the rest of the household furniture corresponded with the table. The repast consisted of vegetables, chicken and pastries, the best the township afforded. The very best was none too good for the first marriage in the township. Mr. Dickenson and his wife moved from the county in May, 1851.

It is said that at this first election in the township for the office of justice of the peace there was a tie, and lots were cast which decided in favor of William Alloway. Just who Mr. Alloway's opponent was, I have been unable to ascertain, but presume that it was Joseph C. Tremain as being the best man fitted for the position in the township. Wm. Alloway was a man of considerable ability, had acquired something of an education, and moved in the 50's to Council Bluffs, where he held the position of police justice for many years. He died in Council Bluffs in 1865.



Joseph Hewitt, an Indian trader, settled on the township line between Cass and Sperry in 1840. His home was just across the line in Sperry. His son, Moses Hewitt, lived about a mile and a half west of his father's on the line between Cass and Sperry near the residence of David Mitchell. He died about 1852 and his widow some years afterwards married Stephen Young. They moved to McGregor, where Mr. Young died not long after.

The first actual resident of the township was James Tracy, who located in section 6 in 1846, on the farm now owned and occupied by his son, James W. Tracy. Mr. Tracy lived on this farm from the time he settled in the township till his death, which occurred in 1875. Mr. Tracy was born in Ireland, came to this country and located in Illinois. He was a typical son of Erin, honest, open hearted, generous and quick-witted. He had his failings and was his own worst enemy. He always took pride in being the first actual settler in the township and called himself the father of Cass township. His son, Joseph H. Tracy, now living at Fayette, was born in 1848 and was the first white child born in the township. Mrs. Clarissa Tracy, his widow, died a few years ago. Mrs. Tracy was an active intelligent woman, greatly respected by all who knew her and bore with bravery and fortitude the trials and privations of frontier life.

The next actual residents in the township came in 1847. They were Samuel Hines and family. His mother, Mrs. Jane Hines, William Alloway, Sr., and sons, James, William and Azariah, and Moses German, son-in-law of William Alloway, Sr., old Mr. Betts, known as Pap Betts, and his son, Joshua Betts, and Ebenezer Betts, Joel Harrow and his four sons, Elmore Harrow, Asa Harrow, Anson Harrow and Joel Harrow, and his son-in-law, a preacher by the name of Brown. These, with the Tracys, were the only residents of the township in 1847, as far as we are able to ascertain.

Traditions say that an Indian in an early day, took, stole, appropriated and rode away a horse without the owner's knowledge or consent, near Guttenberg. The Indian was pursued and overtaken near Mr. A. R. Carrier's place and taken to the South Ford timber near the Harrow spring and then and there by sentence of Judge Lynch hung. Horse stealing in a new country is oft times considered a capital offense.

Wm. Alloway, Sr., located in section 1, just south of J. R. Alderson's residence on the east side of the public road, afterwards occupied by Dr. Tyson. Wm. Alloway, Jr., the first justice, located about 40 rods from his father's on the west side of the present road. Moses German, brother-in-law to William Alloway, Jr., and the first constable in the township, located about 20 rods north of his place. Mr. German moved about 1855 to Harrison county, Iowa, where he died in 1899.

Samuel Hines, who preceded the Alloways a short time, located near a spring about 80 rods west of the present residence of J. R. Alderson in section 1. His mother accompanied him and he built her a house near this place. Mr. Hines cultivated several acres and raised the first corn in this vicinity. The corn field is now grown up to timber and now has thrifty trees on that cleared corn field sixty feet tall.

Timber will grow in this country if you will protect it from stock and fire.

The Alloway and Hines families were Virginia people. The Betts families were Ohio people. Joshua Betts located on the A. R. Carrier farm, and his father, generally called Pap Betts, settled on the A. E. Axtell farm, his house being about 20 rods north of A. E. Axtell's present residence. Here in 1847 he built and operated a blacksmith shop, the first blacksmith shop in the township. He sold out in 1852 to Charles Blanchard and with his son, Joshua, moved to California that year.

Azariah Alloway, son of William Alloway, located on the 80 acres in section 13, known as Hestwood farm. He afterward disposed of this claim and moved to Lodomillo township, locating on a place in Chipman hollow now occupied by C. H. Donahue, where Mr. Alloway died a few years since.

On Mr. Alloway's removal to Delaware county about 1850, Dr. Tyson moved into his house near Mr. Alderson. Dr. Tyson, prior to this, had lived in what was known as Wild Cat hollow in Sperry township near Blanchard's mill. The doctor had no team and Thomas Hines, a son of Hiram Hines, although only a lad of 13, took his father's team and moved the doctor and his family and effects to the Alloway house. Dr. Tyson had a step-son, Levi Perkins, who soon afterward married a daughter of Mr. Alloway and resided with his step-father. His wife died soon after and is buried in the Cox Creek cemetery.

Dr. Tyson, as near as can be ascertained, was not a graduate physician but was a sort of botanical doctor, preparing his own medicine from roots and herbs. He planted certain kinds of herbs and one kind to this day cannot be found in any other locality. Dr. Tyson moved away in about 1853.

About 1849 a family named Watkins lived above David Mann's mill near where Ball creamery was located. Mr. Watkins had quite a family and was a great hunter and had an excellent rifle. One of his sons accidentally shot his sister, a girl eleven or twelve years of age, killing her. Mr. Watkins disposed of his gun to the Hines family, in whose possession it still is, and Mr. Watkins soon after the accident moved from the country.

In 1848, John Mitchell and Washington Maxwell and their families moved from Bowens prairie in Jones county and erected cabins for their families on the Brell place in section 2 now owned by Patsey Lane. The Mitchell cabin was near a spring a little southeast of the present Lane house and the Maxwell cabin a little to the northwest near another spring. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Maxwell were brother-in-laws and had selected claims on Cox creek near Maxham creamery, but on account of fear of Indians they built their first cabins on the Brell place so as to be in the neighborhood of Samuel Hines and the Alloways, who lived from one half to a mile on the east. The claim selected by Mr. Maxwell is the Barney Olinger farm on Cox creek and Mr. Mitchell selected the adjoining claim now constituting the O'Brien farm, both in Sperry township. Here both families lived for many years.

About 1848 or 1849 Hiram Hines, Sr., moved to this vicinity from Jones county, near Cascade, and located a claim on what constitutes the Byrnes farm in the southeast corner of Sperry township.

Mrs. Jane (Halloway) Hines was the mother of Hiram, Samuel and Reason Hines. She was fairly well educated and was a remarkable woman. She was born in Virginia in 1761 and died on the farm now owned by McCrae in Cass township in 1860 at the advanced age of 99 years, 5 months. She was about 15 years of age when the Declaration of Independence was written.

#### MISSION ROAD

By act of the Territorial legislature in 1841 a commission was named to survey and locate a road from Dubuque to Fort Atkinson by the most direct and feasible route and named as commissioners Joseph Hewitt, T. G. Roberts, and Samuel Chilton. At that time Joseph Hewitt resided in Clayton county, T. C. Roberts in Rockdale and Samuel Chilton in Dubuque, both in Dubuque county. The commissioners selected Alfred Brown as surveyor and in 1841 did locate said road known as Mission road. The road ran diagonally from Dubuque through Dubuque, Delaware, Clayton and Fayette counties to Fort Atkinson in the southwest part of Winneshiek county. The commissioners selected the highest and best natural location for the road regardless of sectional or division lines. The road runs through Greeley, York, Strawberry Point, Arlington and Fayette. There was considerable opposition by the residents of Dubuque to the road as located, and by act of territorial legislature in 1843 the road in Dubuque county was vacated, but was left as located in other counties. The road through Delaware and Clayton and a portion of Fayette county remains today substantially as located by the commissioners. The road intersects the township line of Cass township, in section 24 at the railroad crossing near Mr. Knight's place, and the road at first located ran diagonally to Mr. Ward's place and from there diagonally across the township as now traveled along the divide between Maquoketa and Volga rivers intersecting the township line on the west near B. S. Cole's premises in Section 7, and the road constitutes the main street of the town of Strawberry Point and that of Arlington. The road on the east part of Cass township was changed so as to run where the road intersects the township line north about 60 rods to where Mallory road intersects near A. R. Carrier's residence. At such intersections at an early day a guide board was fastened to a large oak tree which read, "York 4 miles," "Dubuque 54 miles."

York, then a little village of immense possibilities, in the minds of its founders, is now a corn field, and a guide board would be necessary to be placed on its side to locate it at the present time. "A monument of things hoped for" while the other name on the other guide board, "Dubuque," is a wealthy, prosperous city of more than 40,000 people. The old Mission road has been a highway of vast traffic in its day and is one of the most noted roads in the state.

In 1840, Mr. Hewitt removed to Clayton county and located on the line between Cass and Sperry. Hewitt's reason for leaving



Dubuque county was that he must push out further on the frontier so as not to be crowded, and his desire to trade with the Indians. He is said to have had a number of wives. Mr. Hewitt maintained his residence at the head of Hewitt creek in Clayton county till May 20, 1851, when with James Dickenson he removed for the west.

The first house built in Lodomillo township was erected by Mr. Lyon on part of the premises northeast of Edgewood now occupied by J. M. Robinson, and known as the Conrad place in 1839. Lyon sold his claim to Mr. Bemis who resided there and who disposed of his claim to F. C. Madison, in 1843, and who afterwards sold out to S. R. Peet who came to this country in 1845 with his brother-in-law, G. L. Wheeler, who was afterwards postmaster at the Yankee Settlement. Daniel Noble and Mr. Mulliken came to the vicinity of Edgewood in 1842 and the Steele families about the same time. F. C. and Wm. Madison came in 1843, C. T. Peet came in 1844, Jonathan Noble and family in 1846 and settled in Lodomillo. Rev. N. W. Bixby came to Yankee Settlement from Vermont in 1847, took up a claim in Lodomillo and has lived there ever since, a period of 54 years, longer than that of any other person in the community on the same farm. L. R. Noble and L. L. Noble, sons of Jonathan Noble, reside in Strawberry Point and the other son, F. G. Noble, resides on the old homestead. The Noble Brothers, L. L. and L. R., operated a threshing machine in 1848 and continued to do so for many years.

We have heretofore named nearly all the pioneer settlers residing in Cass township, prior to 1850. Giles Ward made the first entry of land in sections 24 and 26 in 1848, but he did not improve the land or come to the township to live till 1853. The first tax receipt issued in Cass township was issued to Mr. Ward, bearing the date of 1850 and signed by Robert R. Reed, the treasurer, and none of the receipt is printed, but all written out.

In 1850, J. C. Tremain and family located in the township, their first claim being the Quick farm on the Delaware county line in section 35 and owned by Dr. F. J. Newberry. The Tremain family consisted of himself, wife and son, George L. Tremain, now a banker at Humboldt, and his son, Clyde Tremain. J. C. Tremain had poor eyesight but was a well read man and frequently appeared as an attorney in justice court and for a number of years was a justice of the peace. In 1855 he located in Sperry township on the farm known as the Barney Morris farm, where he resided till 1860, when he sold the farm to Hiram Hines, Sr.

In August, 1850, Stephen Gaylord came from Galena, Illinois, and settled on what is known as the Japeth Ball place in section 14 now owned by Lawrence Glass. Norman Hawley had a squatter's claim of 240 acres on which he built a small house. Mr. Gaylord purchased Mr. Hawley's squatter's right, built a more commodious house and entered the land. He sold his land in 1854, leaving a widow, five sons and three daughters.

Stephen Gaylord was the first assessor in the township, serving in 1853. The work previous to that time had been done by a county assessor. He received the munificent sum of \$14.00 salary as assessor. Mr. Gaylord was a staunch church member. The first Sunday school

in the township was held in his house in 1850 and continued to be held there and occasionally preaching by a United Brethren circuit rider by name of Brown, was held at his house. His widow died at the home of her son in Strawberry Point, in 1866, aged 84 years. Caleb Lane came to this township in 1850 and located on the Hanson farm in section 2. He was a good violinist and quite a hunter. Mr. Lane and Hiram Hines, Sr., another nimrod, in 1850, tracked a bear to Chipman hollow in Lodomillo township. The bear ran into a den and they endeavored to smoke and drive it out but did not succeed. Finally they purchased torches and entered the den and in the language of old "did slew the bear."

Every community has one or more unique characters entirely different from the rest of the people and the early settlers had such a character in the person of one David Mann, a Virginian, who settled in the township about 1850, and erected a mill in what is still known as David Mann's hollow in section 12, on the premises now owned by Mr. Childers. There are a number of excellent springs near here which supplied the water for motive power. It was a sort of corn cracker. As some one has said, you took a kernel of corn there and had it made into three pieces instead of one. The burrs were fashioned by Mr. Mann himself, who was an inventive genius, from two small boulders or hard heads about a foot in diameter. The mill was built in 1850 and while a small affair, was quite a convenience to the nearby settlers, who otherwise were compelled to go many miles to have their corn ground. When asked to the capacity of the mill, he replied, "Wall, by keeping her lamin' through all day long, I reckon I can grind nigh onto two bushels." He ran a turning lathe in connection with his mill and made splint bottom chairs in a substantial manner as were made in an early day.

After running his mill for a time he rebuilt the same and purchased a new set of burrs, thereby greatly increasing its capacity. He built a rather commodious log house with an upstairs to it, the size of his family demanding additional rooms. About 1854 or 1855, a severe flood came one evening and Mann and his whole family crowded into the upper room for safety. When morning came, he found that his dam, mill and machinery had been entirely destroyed.

#### POST OFFICE

There have been three post offices located in Cass township. The first settlers procured their mail at Elkader, Yankee Settlement and Forestville. The post office was established at Strawberry Point in 1851. Efforts were made to have the post office called Franklin, but there was a rural post office established before this time in Lee county and the government does not allow two post offices of the same name in the same state so the name Franklin was abandoned and the one of Strawberry Point agreed upon. There was a tract of timber about a mile west of the town of Strawberry Point that ran to a point along where the road from Dubuque to Fort Atkinson ran and tradition says that a party of soldiers were going from Dubuque to the fort and camped at this point of timber in the month of June and there found

an abundance of wild strawberries. The wife of a lieutenant accompanying the party gave the place the name of Strawberry Point and it was ever after known to the travelers to and from Fort Atkinson to Dubuque by that name. Very naturally the post office established a mile east was given the name of Strawberry Point. When the railroad was built to the place, in 1872, the station was named Enfield, but the old settlers did not take kindly to the name of the station and by order of the state railroad commissioners the name of the station was changed to Strawberry Point—a name that is really too long and meaningless for a town, but a name dear to all old settlers.

The town of Strawberry Point was platted by W. H. Sterns and E. B. Gardner, in 1854, as Franklin and is still known on the record as Franklin. The place was incorporated in 1888 under the name of Strawberry Point.

In 1854, a post office was established in the east part of the township, under the name of "Sylvan" with Alvah Bush as post master on premises now owned by C. Weig. The post office was discontinued about six months after it was established. The post office was established in 1848, at Yankee Settlement, the post office at Forestville in 1851, and the post office at Elkader in 1848.

#### MILLS

The early settlers were greatly interested in having saw and grist mills in their neighborhood. It was saving of much travel to Elkader, Hartwick or other distant points to mill. The first mill in this township was the one built by David Mann in section 12, in David Mann's hollow. In 1852, a man by the name of Woods commenced the erection of a small feed mill in section 10, about half a mile above the present Kleinlein mill. Mr. Wood was unable to finish the mill on account of poor health and Alex. Blake, Sr., purchased his claim and finished the mill in 1852. Mr. Wood and one of his children died soon after and were buried in the first cemetery in the township located just west of Strawberry Point on P. J. Clough's premises near Mr. Pebler's house. The present Strawberry Point cemetery was established in 1853 and some of the bodies in the Clough cemetery were moved to the new cemetery but those of Mr. Wood and his child were not moved. John A. Cooley and W. W. Putney moved the bodies to the new cemetery, in 1853.

About 1856, the mill was enlarged and converted by Mr. Blake into a flour mill and soon after sold to Mr. Templeton of Fayette, and transferred a number of times thereafter. The mill was burned, in 1858, and the property passed to the control of John Kleinlein, who erected a substantial stone flour mill about half a mile north of the site of the first mill which is now owned and operated by his son, Gottlieb Kleinlein, who is an active, reliable miller. Mr. Kleinlein about 1865 erected a brewery near the mill which was operated many years.

About 1852, Mr. Gilbriath, then occupying the Barney Morris farm in Sperry township, erected a small feed mill about a mile and a half below David Mann's mill near C. H. Suerbry's place about twenty rods north of the township line. It was a small affair but competition was active between Mann and Gilbriath in the milling business.



In 1853, David Brown laid out a town on the Maquoketa on section 30 and named it Mississegaa. Either the name or the location killed it for it never grew beyond a small mill and a blacksmith's shop. The place was afterwards known as Ward's or Gogue's mill. G. Cooley bought the property and not only did he buy a dam site as well as the mill, but the dam would persist on going out on every opportunity so that he was unable to make a sight of money from this investment. He owned the property when he went in the army and while he was gone his wife effected a sale on the entire property, town site, mill, all for 400 pounds of flour to Isaac Martin, to the great satisfaction of Mr. Cooley who commended his wife in effecting such a good sale of the property. In 1855, W. H. Sterns built a steam mill in Strawberry Point, just east of the depot which was run for a number of years. E. B. Gardner, John A. and G. Cooley were among the sawyers.

In 1858, a man by the name of Warner erected a substantial saw-mill at Rankin's corners just over the line in Lodomillo township. The property afterwards passed to the ownership of Horace Knight, who had a town site surveyed and platted under the name of Empire City; we believe the plat was filed for record. The town looked well on paper. The mill was operated a number of years and finally passed to the ownership of J. W. Windsor, who about 1864 moved the machinery east of Edgewood to what is known as Walters' mill and the frame work was sold to B. Bushee and part of the timbers constituted the frame of the S. Joy barn in Strawberry Point. There were quite a number of buildings about this mill at one time and for several years it was a busy place, but like York, corn grows well on this town site.

#### SCHOOLS

The first school in the township was taught by Alex. Blake in the small log house built by Azariah Alloway on what is now called the Hestwood place in section 13 in the winter of 1851 and 1852. Mr. Blake received the sum of \$10.00 per month, and boarded himself for teaching and he actually claims he fully earned such a salary. The next winter, in 1852 and 1853, Mr. Blake taught school in a log dwelling house at Brown Mill on the Maquoketa. The first school house in the township was erected opposite the Strawberry Point cemetery where Mr. Bower's barn now stands. It was a one-story log building and served the purpose of school room and church building for a number of years. The first teacher was Battie Bush who taught the school in the winter of 1853 and 1854. The frame school house in Strawberry Point was built in 1853 and is part of L. C. Gardner's shop on Commercial street, located on the same site, and this building was used some time for church purposes also.

A school house was built on the present site of Grange Hall, in Lodomillo township, about 1849, and all of Cass township was attached to this district for school purposes. In 1854 a school house was erected on town line near A. R. Carrier's residence and the first school was taught by Miss Jane Weeks.

## CHURCHES

The early settlers gave considerable consideration to church services and Sunday school. As heretofore stated, the first Sunday school and first preaching services were held in the house of Stephen Gaylord in 1850, and '51. Afterwards, in 1852, Mr. Bieven, moving on the Bemis place, had Sunday school and preaching in his house and when the first log school house was built opposite the cemetery, in 1853, regular preaching services were held there and also in the first frame school house in Strawberry Point, built in 1853. In 1856, the Baptist church was built in Strawberry Point by popular subscription and was a most excellent church edifice. While built as a Baptist church all denominations from time to time held services there. The first Baptist minister was Rev. Root, of Delhi, who lived in Delhi and came up and held preaching services at stated times. The first resident pastor was Rev. George Scott, who acceptably filled the position for several years. Mr. Scott is still living in Nebraska. The first Methodist minister was Rev. D. M. Sterns, who came here in 1853, and was a man greatly respected by all. The first minister in this part of the country was Rev. N. W. Bixby.

Rev. J. N. Baker, a preacher of the Disciple church, came here in 1851, and always took an active interest in religious affairs and frequently preached.

In 1851, the Grannis Brothers, William, John, Erastus, Harvey and Newton, with their families, came here. They took up land west of Strawberry Point, including the Arnold and Feulner farms. They were fine musicians and before coming to the state had traveled as a concert company and after coming here occasionally gave concerts in the neighboring towns. John, Erastus and Newton Grannis, died a few years after coming here. John, at the time of his death, lived on the Walker farm, southeast of Strawberry Point. William Grannis entered the army and was first lieutenant of Company D, Twenty-first Iowa regiment. After his return he was a commercial traveler for a number of years and died at Earlville, Iowa, several years ago, where he ran a hotel. Harvey Grannis about 1865 moved with his family to California, where he died. There are none of the descendants of the Grannises here now. Myron M. Grannis, son of William, married the oldest daughter of Judge Murdock, who died soon after her marriage. The Grannis family was a large one and they added much to the musical and social circles of the early days.

Job Dalton came in 1851, and located on a farm southeast of Strawberry Point where he resided many years. He moved to Taylor county, Iowa, where he now lives. His son, Whit Dalton, is living in Strawberry Point. Ambrose Carney purchased the claim of Samuel Hines known as Henderson farm. He sold out in 1860 to Thos. Alderson and moved west. Alonzo Carney lived near the C. H. Saurbry place. He was married to a daughter of Samuel Hines, in 1853. He died in 1899. His widow survived him and is now living in Cox Creek township with her son.

In 1851, a man by the name of Woods entered the land on which is located the business portion of Strawberry Point. He erected a log

building on the land now occupied by the bank and opened up a store. His stock consisted of several barrels of moderately poor whiskey and about a wheelbarrow load of dry goods and notions and groceries. Our friend, Stub Toney, claims that in 1852, when he first visited Strawberry Point, he counted 24 immigrant wagons along Mission street by the Woods' store, his being the only business place in town. And 15 men having the wagons in charge came out of Woods' store each with a jug in his hand. Mr. Toney says he does not positively know, but thinks the contents of the jugs must have been a sort of lotion for the oxen's feet that had become sore. For a year or two Woods did a thriving business and in 1853 he sold out his claim and store to W. H. Stern. Mr. Woods had a son who had a claim of forty acres of land just west of his father's and erected a log house where George Roe's house now stands. He sold out to Rev. D. M. Sterns in 1853, who afterwards platted the land.

In 1851, Rev. J. N. Baker and family and John Bliven and family and David Merritt came from Illinois. Mr. Baker first lived in a small house on the Sloan place the first year and the house burned down. The next season, in 1852, he built a log house in Strawberry Point on the place now occupied by G. N. Steele, where he resided some years. In 1852, he built and conducted a blacksmith shop on the lot across the street where George Alderson now lives. His son, Palmer Baker, assisted him in running the shop.

John Blevin purchased the Bemis farm of two young men named Brownson and he moved on this farm in 1851. Here Mr. Blevin's wife died and he afterwards married a widow named Hysham, mother of Jacob and Hiram Hysham, two well known men in the county in early days. Mr. Blevin sold out to Chancy Bemis in 1855. He was somewhat of an exhorter and took a great interest in Sunday school and church affairs.

David Merritt took up a claim east of Blevin's, now owned by T. Dunning. There were no buildings on the place and he proceeded to improve the same. At this time he was a single man. His sister was the wife of Rev. J. N. Baker. Mr. Merritt built the first frame house in the township. J. C. Tremain was head workman in its construction, assisted by J. H. Deyo and Stephen Gaylord. The house was in late years occupied as a granary on the farm and was burned last fall. Mr. Merritt, after completing his house was married, in 1852, to Miss Jane Clough at the log cabin of her father, just west of Strawberry Point. Among the invited guests was B. F. Gaylord, still living here. At this time Mr. Merritt was a mail carrier from Strawberry Point to Forestville once a week at the munificent salary of twenty-five cents a trip. He made the trip on foot. Mr. Merritt lived in the township many years and by hard work and frugality accumulated quite a fortune. He moved to New Hampton and afterwards to West Union, where he died last year, leaving his widow and two sons, Frank Merritt of New Hampton and Prof. F. D. Merritt of Iowa City, surviving him.

In the same year, 1851, Alex Blake, Sr., and family, consisting of his sons, Alex., Tylar and James, and his daughters, Sarah Blake—who married James Massey—and Minnie Blake, who married George L.



Tremain, came from Indiana and purchased the claim of James Alloway adjoining Strawberry Point and now occupied by Miles Alderson. Mr. Alex. Blake, Sr., engaged in the milling business in 1852. He died in 1863. His son, Alex. Blake, resides in Strawberry Point.

We have heretofore spoken of Garden Prairie. The honor of giving that name to the beautiful prairie extending from the Maquoketa westward in Fayette county belongs to Mr. Nelson Fenner. In June, 1854, he traveled this prairie, beautiful with the flowers of that season of the year and covered with luxuriant vegetation of the virgin soil. To his companion he exclaimed, "This is magnificent and this locality ought to be called Garden Prairie." And that name has been allied to that section ever since. Mr. Fenner moved from Cass to Lodomillo about 1865 and for a number of years was post master of Edgewood.

#### AN EARLY INCIDENT

During the summer of 1852 Mr. John Thompson of Clermont had a large gang of men at work grading the railroad up along Bloody Run above North McGregor. These men had received but little pay during the summer, and as the frosty nights of fall and approaching winter came on they began to realize the need of the money due them, that they might provide themselves and families with the necessary food and clothing for cold weather. But for some reason they were put off from day to day until there began to be rumors of serious trouble of some kind unless their just claims were satisfied. The people of McGregor became, if not alarmed, at least a little anxious as to what might happen if the men were not paid off soon.

The stores had laid in good stocks of family supplies and the railroad workmen were willing and anxious to buy if they had the money for they had no credit. But their families were in sore need and their wants WOULD HAVE TO BE SUPPLIED IN SOME WAY. So by invitation of some of our citizens Mr. Thompson came to McGregor one day and put up at Harding's hotel, nearly opposite the present passenger depot. The railroad men very soon learned that he was here and they swarmed into town and surrounded the hotel, some sitting or standing on the sidewalk opposite and others back in the bushes on the bluff, all determined to prevent Mr. Thompson's escape, either day or night until he had made provision for their pay. There must have been one or two hundred of them altogether and not less than a hundred on guard at a time, fresh ones taking the place of those who had to go to their homes for food and rest, and each one getting madder and madder as they returned from their empty cupboards and scanty wardrobes at home. The young hickory and white oak along Bloody Run were just the size and texture for a good shillalah and along toward the end of the second day, an occasional one might be seen in the hands of some of the leaders among the men. During these two days good old Father Nagle, the spiritual and to some extent the temporal adviser of most of the men, had not been idle. He well knew their destitute condition and that some means for supplying them and their families with the necessities of life must be provided at once. He labored with them day and night, keeping their rising anger

in partial subjection and pledging his personal honor that their claim should soon be satisfied. By his advice, and the orders of the City Fathers, the saloons were closed, while their owners stood within with loaded guns, ready to defend their property against any riotous attack. Loaded guns, revolvers, and other weapons of defense were also within easy reach of the occupants of every store, shop and dwelling in town.

The Reverend Father, besides laboring with his own people for their good, was equally active in his labors with the leading citizens and Mr. Thompson to devise some means by which the just claims of the men might be satisfied. At the close of the second day of his arduous labors, the Reverend Father told the City Fathers that the men were getting desperate, that he had nearly exhausted his influence in pacifying them, but that he would stay with them, at least a part of the night, and use his utmost endeavors to prevent any riotous demonstration. They might, however, break away from him at any time and he would not hold himself responsible for any mad act of violence they might commit. The prospect was getting desperate. Those men must be pacified or there would be rioting with the looting of stores, fire and bloodshed in the morning, if not before. In the evening the leading citizens, with Mr. Thompson, held a conference at which, very happily, means were devised for paying off the men in the morning at the opening of the bank. The news was conveyed to Father Nagle and by him to the men, but they wouldn't believe it. They thought it was only a scheme to put them off their guard, and give Mr. Thompson a chance to escape and cheat them out of their pay. Father Nagle redoubled his efforts to keep them quiet, assuring them they would be paid off in the morning. They didn't dare contradict his reverence, but in their hearts they were strongly inclined to doubt him, and with a twirl of the shillalah, and mutterings of determined action if deceived, they were kept in check till morning when they were paid off. Late in the evening of the second day, even after the men had been told that they would be paid in the morning, their actions showed that it needed only a spark to kindle their fiercest passions, so about 10 o'clock at night messengers were sent through the town warning all the citizens in stores, shops or dwellings to be on guard, and ready with such means of defense as they might have to repel any attack and especially to be ready at a moment's call, either that night or the next morning to march to the defense of the town against a bloody riot. The strain, the fear, the anxiety, were in no way relaxed, until it was known at 9 o'clock that the bank was paying off the men and that they had ceased their threatening aspects.

#### THE OLD DUBUQUE ROAD

For the following interesting word picture of the old Dubuque road and the pioneer days we are indebted to one whose home has been in Clayton county for more than sixty years.

"There is another road in Clayton county quite as old and probably as well traveled as the Military road in early days before McGregor became a busy mart of commerce. This road was originally a trail between Dubuque and St. Paul. Through Clayton county

it led along the watershed between the Mississippi and Turkey rivers until it struck the Military road a few miles east of Poverty Point, as Monona was formerly called. A portion of the old trail is now marked by a much frequented road which takes an almost straight course from a point a mile above National to two or three miles below Garnavillo.

When Iowa was opened to settlers in 1833 the first rush in the northern part was to the lead mines about Dubuque. Above that place the shores of the Turkey river caught the next wave of immigrants. In that locality at the end of five years a census would have included the names of more than a score and a half of men, a large proportion of them occupying homes with their families. Slowly a feeble stream of the human tide crept northward, the settlers without exception building their homes in the woods or near the edge of it. The first houses distinctly away from the woods were built where Garnavillo now stands. There in 1843 Judge Samuel Murdock found but one log hut.

South of Jacksonville, as the new county seat was first called, lived Dr. Frederick Andros and Mr. A. P. McDonald; to the west of it Mr. William Schulte; extending northward to the Military road were scattered half a dozen or more log cabins sheltered by the woods, their owners believing it foolhardy to build upon the prairies where their homes would certainly be wrecked by the wind. Thus they cautioned Mark B. Sherman, who with his wife and child arrived from Prairie du Chien in the spring of 1845 at a location on the old trail four miles north of Garnavillo. A temporary cabin was occupied during the summer while a substantial frame house was erected. It was one of the first frame houses built beside this road and was occupied the longest of all. It still stands, used by its present owner, Otto Hamaam, as a garage. In 1847 a barn 30 feet by 50 feet was built which has been in daily use ever since. In its basement may be found cedar posts sixteen inches in diameter which were placed as supports when the barn was built. For a number of years the Sherman home was a well-known landmark on the Dubuque and St. Paul trail. It was not intended as a tavern nor kept as a public house, yet in the wilderness one cannot turn the cold and hungry from his door, so the little house was sometimes crowded to its utmost capacity, sheltering as many as thirty-two people; one night fourteen travelers slept upon the kitchen floor.

The first summer that Mrs. Sherman spent upon the farm she was often left alone. No sign of human habitation was in sight. Her first caller was a Winnebago chief; he spoke the Indian word for bread, signifying his hunger. Food was set before him, and the young mother, with her baby in her arms and terror in her heart, watched him eat. Having finished he arose and with a polite bow laid a silver quarter on the table, and pointing to his pony he emptied the contents of a salt cellar into the corner of his blanket, then departed. He was dressed in a fine suit of broadcloth but wore the customary blanket over his head. Like many of the Indian visits in those days the only harm done was in the fear inspired.

— But changes sometimes come quickly in the wilderness as well as



elsewhere. The land was ere long taken up by settlers, and within a few years many homes similar to the one described were built along the old trail. Some people of the younger generation receive wrong impressions regarding the conditions of the settlers in those days. They were people of energy and courage for none others are wont to become pioneers. They were not poverty-stricken, as an inspection of their homes would prove. Their wardrobes would disclose a silken gown or two for the wife, probably a broadcloth suit for the husband, his wedding coat, no doubt. Their chests held linen and woolen goods, spun and woven in the eastern homes for the women when they became brides; occasionally there could be found a choice piece of furniture, sometimes of mahogany, or of beautiful maple or cherry; and both cooking and heating stoves were to be found in all of these frame houses."

One reason that this road was so well traveled in early days was because the Government land office was located at Dubuque, where those desirous of entering land were obliged to present themselves, and another journey became necessary when they paid for their lands. Soon land in counties to the westward came into demand and a flood-tide of immigrants poured along the old trail. In a company there would be a half dozen, even as high as sixty, "prairie schooners," sometimes drawn by horses, but more frequently by two, four or six oxen. Looking out from under the canvass of each wagon were women and children. A man walked beside the oxen; in the rear, more men and boys drove the cows; a crate of chickens was fastened to the back of a wagon; wooden pails and iron kettles swung from the hind axles and beneath the wagon trotted the family dog. Such were the moving pictures that almost daily gladdened the sight of the children of the settlers, and as they timidly peeked through the picket fences at these caravans, to more than one of them a chance to travel in a "prairie schooner" appeared more attractive than now would be a cross-continent trip.

Changes still are taking place along the old road. A whiz and a streak of dust mark the passing of the automobile where in early days plodded the patient oxen; and in the old barn that sixty-five years ago was lighted at night by the feeble rays of a tallow candle that struggled through the perforations in a tin lantern, the turn of a button illuminates the ancient spaces with a flood of light.

#### THE STORY OF BLOODY RUN

An old settler is favoring the readers of the *Prairie du Chien Courier* with a well written and highly interesting history of early events as they transpired around that locality. In the last *Courier* we find the following account of "Bloody Run." It will well repay perusal though the conclusion to which the writer comes as to North McGregor surpassing its mother, is merely a matter of opinion which the future may or may not confirm. "Bloody Run" is so called from an incident of backwoods life which I will relate as it was told to me by a person who was born in these parts, and who is now living in *Prairie du Chien*. The name applies to a large ravine or valley, on the

west side of the Mississippi in Iowa, opposite Prairie du Chien, and one mile north of McGregor, a stream of pure, cool spring water, clear as a crystal, and thickly skirted with a growth of timber, meanders along through the valley, over its pebbly bottom towards the Mississippi, into which it flows. This stream winds between high wood-covered bluffs that bound the valley on either side; and at a distance of more than seven miles from its mouth it furnishes power to run Spalding & Marsh's mill.

In that season of the year when vegetation and verdure is at its height, a picturesque sight is presented to the tourist, as he wends his way along the stream, through the valley of "Bloody Run." The lover of nature has never imagined a wilder, more beautiful place than was Bloody Run when I was there in 1834. No wonder that Martin Scott chose this as his favorite hunting ground. His true sportsman instinct lead him to this place, to watch for the red deer as it came down from the bluff at mid-day, to slake its thirst and cool its panting sides in the crystal waters of the run; here it was his brag gun dealt death among the woodcock, wood duck and pheasants that were very abundant in the valley; and here, too, transpired a scene of blood-shed that gave to this beautiful spot its ominous name. There is not a stream, point, bluff, wood, coulee, or cave in the west but has attached to it some associations that are alone peculiarly historical; and as I possessed a natural curiosity to learn the derivation of names that to me seemed peculiar, my probings have often brought to light mines of legendary lore and antique history. It was years ago, before the English were guided to and captured Prairie du Chien, and before the traitorous guide hid himself in a cave in Mill coulee—when Prairie du Chien was inhabited by only a few French families and Indian traders—that an event occurred which gave to the Coulee, wherein North McGregor is now being built, the name of "Bloody Run." A couple of traders lived on the prairie, named Antoine Brisbois and George Fisher, and as was the custom with those extensively engaged in the fur trade, these two traders had their clerks or agents whom they supplied with goods to dispose of to the Indians. Among other clerks were two who lived with their families in Bloody Run. Their names were Smith Stock and a Mr. King. King's wife was a squaw from the Sauk tribe, while Mr. Stock and wife were English, and both families lived on a little beach or table-land, about a mile and a half from the mouth, on the north side of the valley. Their cabin was situated a few rods west of the log house now standing, and I can show you the stones of the old-fashioned fire-place, lying where they fell after the cabin went to decay.

The clerks had sold a quantity of goods to the Indians on credit, who were backward in cancelling the debt. Among other Indians who had got in debt for goods, was a Sauk chief, Grey Eagle. The chief had been refused any more credit, and would not pay for what he had already obtained. This dishonesty on the part of the chief made King impatient, and he told his wife that he would go to Grey Eagle's village, and if the chief did not pay then he would take the chief's horse for the debt. His wife told him it would be dangerous to treat a chief that way, and warned him not to go; but he said he had traded

too long with the Indians to be afraid of them and started to collect the debt.

On his way to the village he met the chief unarmed, riding on the very horse he threatened to take. Approaching him he dragged the chief off, gave him a beating and got on the horse himself and rode it home and tied it before the shanty door. When he told his wife what he had done she said she was afraid the chief would seek revenge and warned her husband to be cautious. Soon after Mrs. King rushed into the cabin and said that Eagle was near at hand with some of his people. Upon hearing this King arose to go out to the horse, but he had scarcely reached the door before a bullet from Eagle's rifle pierced his brain and he fell across the threshold a bloody corpse. The Indian took the horse.

Mr. Stock, the remaining agent, persisted in his refusals to give the Indians credit, which so enraged them that they shot him through the heart. After this last tragedy the surviving members of the two families removed from the claims and for years after no white man lived in the valley, which from the murders perpetrated there by the Indians has ever since been called "Bloody Run."

Such is a description and history of the place where I went to live twenty-four years ago and it remained about the same until within two or three years. I lived there two years and raised two good crops and spent the pleasantest two years of my life. The Indians were very numerous, their reservations being close by and they sometimes stole my corn and potatoes and killed my hogs, but I should have continued there had the title to the land been good. But an advantageous offer was made to me to go up into Menominee Pineries, and I left Bloody Run.

Within the last twelve months Bloody Run has undergone a great change. The land titles have been investigated and adjusted; the floating population of the west has begun to settle there; mills have been built. A young city is rearing itself in the valley, and will yet surpass its neighbor (McGregor) in population and trade, as it does now in its natural advantages.

When I left Bloody Run to go up to Lockwood's mill on the Menominee in 1836 or '37, great speculative excitement existed. Land companies No. 1 and 2 were formed and great improvements and projects were commenced. At Prairie du Chien and Cassville towns were laid out, hotels built and real estate was held at enormous prices. It was designed to make Cassville the capital of Michigan territory but men's practice always falls short of their theory—the hard times came on and the much talked-of project was abandoned; land depreciated and a general stagnation of business ensued. Among the organizations of the times was a wild-cat banking institution entitled, "Prairie du Chien Ferry Company." This company issued its shiplasters at Prairie du Chien, some of which I have, and they bear the signatures of G. Washington Pine, president, and H. W. Savage, cashier. This pioneer bank, however, had to succumb to the pressure, and adopted the "suspend payment" system, which suspension has lasted to the present day.

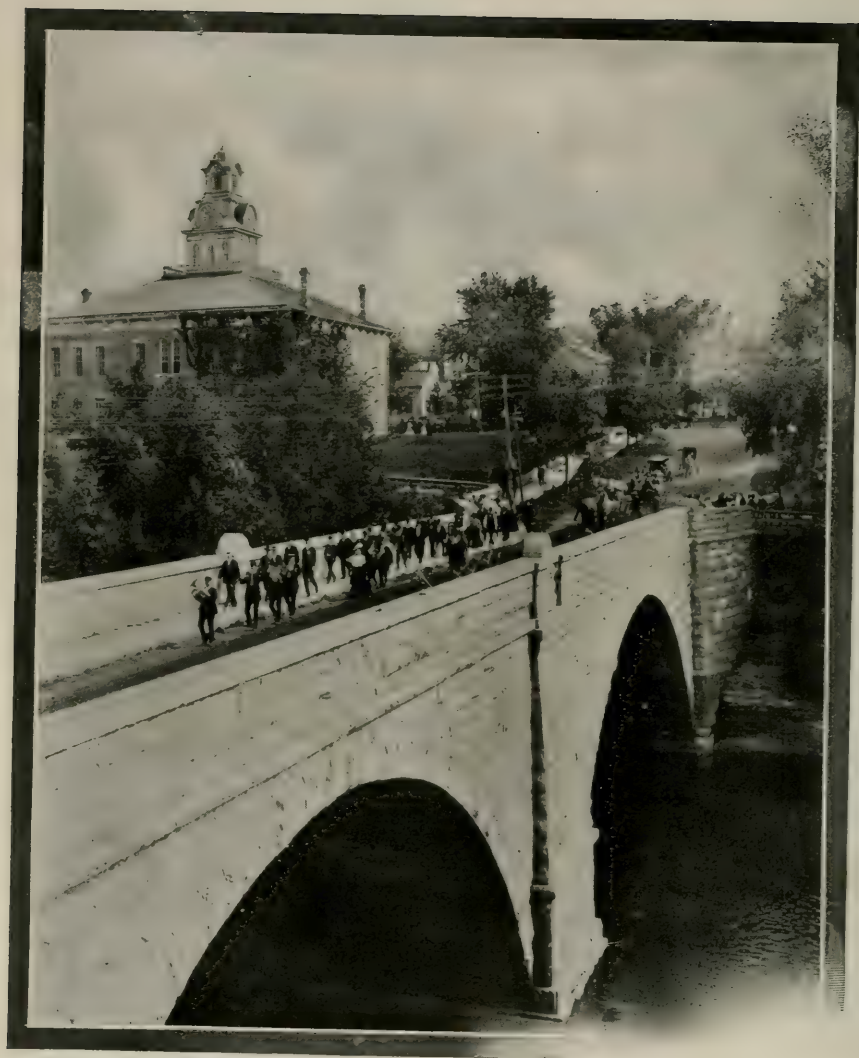


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## CHAPTER XX

### TABLES OF ELECTIONS

STATISTICAL TABLE OF ELECTIONS, WITH MAJORITIES AT ALL REGULAR, SPECIAL AND PRIMARY ELECTIONS AS RECORDED IN THE COUNTY RECORDS—LIST OF SUPERVISORS FROM 1861 TO 1916—LIST OF TOWNS PLATTED, WITH DATES AND FIRST OWNERSHIP—CENSUS TABLE, GIVING POPULATION IN 1890, 1900, 1910 AND 1915.

ELECTION, AUGUST, 1842. NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES

INDICATE MAJORITY

*Sheriff*—Ambrose Kennedy, 71 (17); John Linton, 54; Thomas P. Parks, 20.

*Clerk Commissioners' Court*—Robert R. Read, 133 (130); E. B. Cornish, 3.

*Recorder*—Charles E. Bensell, 80 (20); E. B. Cornish, 60.

*Coroner*—Robert Campbell, 59 (23); John M. Gillett, 36; William Walker, 12; James King, 31.

*Surveyor*—H. D. Lee, 70 (5); C. S. Edson, 65.

*Assessor*—H. D. Brownson, 107 (82); Charles Sawyer, 25.

*Treasurer*—H. F. Lander, 59 (23); John Downie, 36; David Springer, 20.

ELECTION, AUGUST, 1854

*Governor*—J. W. Grimes, Anti-Neb., 687 (355); Curtis Bates, dem., 332.

*Congress*—James Thorington, Anti-Neb., 694 (365); Stephen Hempstead, 329.

*State Senate*—W. W. Hamilton, A-N., 689 (379); D. S. Wilson, dem., 310.

*Representative*—L. Bigelow, A-N., 743 (17); Reuben Noble, A-N., 726; S. R. Peet, dem., 340.

R. R. Read for clerk and O. F. Stephens, attorney, no opposition.

ELECTION, AUGUST, 1856

*Congress*—Timothy Davis, rep., 1,080 (705); Shepherd Leffler, dem., 375.



*Secretary of State*—Elijah Sells, rep., 1,002 (710); — Snyder, dem., 392.

*Senator*—H. D. Carter, rep., 1,042 (621); A. S. Cooley, dem., 421.

*Representative*—Bigelow, rep., 1,022 (509); Rogman, rep., 985 (390); Tapper, dem., 513; Ballou, dem., 595.

*Clerk*—Thomas Updegraff, rep., 1,138 (745); W. A. Drips, dem., 384.

*President*—John C. Fremont, rep., 1,520 (772); James dem., 748; Millard Fillmore, Am., 67.

#### ELECTION, AUGUST, 1857

*County Judge*—O. W. Crary, rep., 1,380 (259); Eliphalet Price, rep., 1,121.

*Recorder*—B. F. Fox, dem., 2,123 (2,112); A. C. Woodward, rep., 11.

*Attorney*—Alphius Scott, rep., 1,209 (17); William Potter, dem., 1,192.

*Sheriff*—James Davis, rep., 1,611 (745); R. F. Spaulding, dem., 866.

*Surveyor*—Murrey E. Smith, rep., 1,479 (481); Lewis Brockman, dem., 998.

*Coroner*—Nichalos Kriebs, dem., 1,351 (1,335); E. G. Rolf, rep., 16.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1857

*Governor*—Ralph P. Lowe, rep., 949 (230); Ben N. Samuels, dem., 719; J. F. Henry, 11.

#### ELECTION, APRIL, 1858

*County Seat*—Guttenberg, 2,038 (332); Elkader, 1,706.

*Superintendent*—Alonzo Brown, rep., 1,742 (1,624); R. R. Read, dem., 118; H. C. Martin, 21.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1858

*Congress*—William Vandever, rep., 1,493 (355); W. E. Leffingwell, dem., 1,138.

*Secretary of State*—Elijah Sells, rep., 1,493 (339); Samuel Douglas, dem., 1,154.

*District Attorney*—Elijah Odell, rep., 1,642 (670); Milo McGlathery, rep., 972.

*District Judge*—William McClintock, dem., 1,480 (330); E. H. Williams, rep., 1,150.

*Clerk*—Thomas Updegraff, rep., 2,471 (2,460); E. B. Hutchinson, dem., 11.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1859

*County Judge*—John Garber, rep., 1,689 (491); D. Baugh, dem., 1,198.

*Treasurer and Recorder*—Jacob Nicklaus, rep., 1,851 (677); B. F. Fox, dem., 1,174.

*Sheriff*—Jonathan Kaufman, dem., 1,566 (289); William S. Scott, rep., 1,277; A. E. Wanzer, dem., 136; William Scott, rep., 45.

*Surveyor*—Ezra Hurd, dem., 1,536 (73); R. J. McClelland, rep., 1,463; R. G. McClelland, 52.

*Superintendent*—Horace Emery, rep., 1,211 (218); O. D. Eno, rep., 993; J. W. VanOrman, rep., 854.

*Coroner*—John P. Kriebs, dem., 1,520 (30); F. W. Sherman, rep., 1,490.

*Governor*—S. J. Kirkwood, rep., 1,630 (206); A. C. Dodge, dem., 1,424.

#### ELECTION, APRIL, 1860

*County Seat*—Elkader, 2,019 (639); Garnavillo, 1,380.

#### ELECTION, 1860

*President*—Abraham Lincoln, rep., 2,089 (517); Stephen A. Douglass, dem., 1,572; John C. Breckenbridge, dem., 14; John Bell, Union, 5.

*Clerk*—H. S. Granger, rep., 1,952 (338); O. D. Eno, dem., 1,614.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1861

*County Judge*—Alvah C. Rogers, rep., 2,142 (1,955); Alva Rogers, 187; C. A. Dean, rep., 78; J. W. Pott, dem., 27.

*Sheriff*—John Garber, rep., 1,647 (389); Jonathan Kaufman, dem., 1,258.

*Treasurer and Recorder*—Jacob Nicklaus, rep., 2,432 (1,984); B. F. Fox, dem., 448.

*Superintendent*—Horace Emery, rep., 2,432 (1,897); P. Stockfeldt, dem., 535.

*Coroner*—J. Boetcher, 2,841 (2,838); J. T. Kriebs, 3.

*Surveyor*—R. J. McClelland, rep., 1,965 (1,287); E. Trescott, dem., 678; E. Hurd, dem., 60.

*Jail Tax*—For, 588; against, 1,421 (833).

*Poor House Tax*—For, 681; against, 1,389 (708).

*Restraining Sheep and Swine*—For, 1,417 (613); against, 804.

*Representative*—D. W. Chase, rep., 2,761 (31); George L. Bass, dem., 2,730; S. R. Peet, dem., 10.

*Governor*—S. J. Kirkwood, rep., 1,861 (871); D. H. Merritt, dem., 990; H. C. Dean, dem., 50.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1862

*Secretary of State*—James Wright, rep., 1,491 (325); Richard Sylvester, dem., 1,166.

*Congress*—W. B. Allison, rep., 1,511 (380); D. A. Mahoney, dem., 1,131.

*District Judge*—E. H. Williams, rep., 1,544 (703) ; W. W. Porter, dem., 801.

*District Attorney*—Milo McGlathery, rep., 1,515 (1,452) ; J. T. Stoneman, dem., 63.

*Clerk*—H. S. Granger, rep., 2,009 (1,999).

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1863

*Governor*—William M. Stone, rep., 2,022 (318) ; James M. Tuttle, dem., 1,704.

*Senator*—B. T. Hunt, rep., 2,387 (649) ; David Hammer, dem., 1,738.

*Representatives*—W. J. Gilchrist, rep., 2,427 (32) ; Henry White, rep., 2,395 (23) ; Leonard Heinee, dem., 1,757 ; Michael Uriell, dem., 1,734.

*County Judge*—A. C. Rogers, rep., 2,383 (639) ; Charles Watkins, dem., 1,744.

*Treasurer and Recorder*—Jacob Nicklaus, rep., 2,590 (2,521) ; G. Y. White, 69.

*Sheriff*—John Garber, rep., 2,406 (677) ; John H. Bowman, dem., 1,729.

*Superintendent*—J. A. Kramer, rep., 2,151 (673) ; S. R. Peet, dem., 1,478 ; J. Briggs, dem., 486.

*Surveyor*—R. J. McClelland, rep., 2,375 (2,215) ; Linsey Seals, dem., 160.

*Coroner*—H. D. Brownson, rep., 2,375 (629) ; John T. Kriebs, dem., 1,746.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1864

*President*—Abraham Lincoln, rep., 2,110 (468) ; George B. McClellan, dem., 1,642.

*Congress*—W. B. Allison, rep., 2,130 (505) ; B. B. Richards, dem., 1,625.

*Clerk*—H. S. Granger, rep., 2,528 (865) ; S. D. Soyster, dem., 1,663.

*Recorder*—J. Oglesbee, rep., 2,544 (986) ; Henry Freese, dem., 1,658.

*County Seat*—Elkader, 2,403 (794) ; McGregor, 1,609.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1865

*Governor*—William M. Stone, rep., 1,633 (104) ; T. H. Benton, dem., 1,529.

*Lieutenant Governor*—B. F. Gue, rep., 1,845 (451) ; W. W. Hamilton, dem., 1,394.

*Representative*—John Garber, rep., 1,929 (280) ; P. P. Olmstead, rep., 1,860 (114) ; D. H. Hutchins, rep., 1,649 ; D. Leffingwell, ind.-rep., 1,746 (97) ; John Hartenbauer, dem., 1,410 ; D. W. Chase, rep., 1,007.

*County Judge*—A. C. Rogers, rep., 1,948 (712) ; A. Bierirs, dem., 1,236.



*Treasurer*—J. C. Vaupell, rep., 2,032 (1,117); T. G. Drips, dem., 915.

*Sheriff*—Elisha Boardman, rep., 3,234.

*Surveyor*—R. J. McClellan, rep., 1,863 (508); S. L. Peck, dem., 1,355.

*Superintendent*—George Cook, rep., 1,807 (365); J. Briggs, dem., 1,442.

*Coroner*—H. D. Bronson, rep., 3,228.

*Building Court House and Jail*—For, 1,275; against, 1,847 (572).

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1866

*Secretary of State*—E. D. Wright, rep., 2,262 (719); S. C. Van Anda, dem., 1,543.

*Congress*—W. B. Allison, rep., 2,191 (577); R. Noble, dem., 1,614.

*District Judge*—Milo McGlathery, rep., 3,780.

*District Attorney*—L. O. Hatch, rep., 2,201 (637); J. T. Clark, dem., 1,564.

*Clerk*—H. S. Granger, rep., 2,160 (517); R. L. Freeman, dem., 1,643.

*Recorder*—W. D. Crooke, rep., 1,878 (312); P. Redeman, dem., 1,566; J. Oglesbee, rep., 344.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1867

*Governor*—S. Merrill, rep., 2,555 (811); C. Mason, dem., 1,744.

*Senator*—H. E. Newell, 4,102.

*Treasurer*—J. C. Vaupell, rep., 4,324.

*Sheriff*—James Davis, rep., 4,374.

*Judge*—C. A. Dean, rep., 4,249.

*Surveyor*—M. E. Smith, rep., 2,187 (83); Carl Kostman, dem., 2,104.

*Superintendent*—W. A. Preston, rep., 2,180 (59); J. Briggs, dem., 2,121.

*Coroner*—H. D. Brownson, rep., 4,250.

*Representatives*—N. Hamilton, rep., 2,518 (654); James Newberry, rep., 2,122 (123); P. G. Bailey, rep., 2,454 (663); J. C. Rounds, dem., 1,864; J. Vanstaden, dem., 1,999; Phillip Fishel, dem., 1,791.

*County Seat*—Elkader, 2,477 (711); Garnavillo, 1,766.

*Bridge Across Turkey*—For, 407; against, 2,832 (2,452).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1868

*President*—U. S. Grant, rep., 2,783 (831); Horatio Seymour, dem., 1,952.

*District Attorney*—H. O'Conner, rep., 2,789 (834); J. E. Williamson, dem., 1,955.

*Congress*—W. B. Allison, rep., 2,715 (696); William Mills, dem., 2,019.

*Circuit Judge*—B. T. Hunt, rep., 4,420.

*Clerk*—H. S. Granger, rep., 2,675 (632); A. W. Daugherty, dem., 2,043.

*Recorder*—W. D. Crooke, rep., 2,681 (663); Paul Stockfeldt, dem., 2,018.

*Jail Tax*—For, 2,603 (1,249); against, 1,354.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1869

*Governor*—S. Merrill, rep., 1,890 (511); George Gillaspy, dem., 1,379.

*Representatives*—S. Murdock, rep., 1,511 (338); H. B. Taylor, rep., 1,514 (341); R. C. Place, dem., 942; L. R. Gilbert, dem., 1,173; M. O'Brien, dem., 936.

*Auditor*—M. E. Duff, rep., 2,020 (874); Phillip Redeman, dem., 1,146.

*Treasurer*—Henry Kellner, rep., 1,625 (16); Chas. Schultze, 1,609.

*Sheriff*—James Davis, rep., 1,555 (294); T. Hopkins, dem., 1,261; James Jack, rep., 467.

*Superintendent*—William C. McNeil, rep., 1,197; John Everall, dem., 2,081 (884).

*Surveyor*—S. L. Peck, rep., 1,882 (437); E. Hurd, dem., 1,445.

*Coroner*—H. D. Brownson, rep., 1,924 (594); John P. Kriebs, dem., 1,335.

*Bridge on Turkey River*—For, 631; against, 1,777 (1,146).

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1870

*Secretary of State*—Ed. Wright, rep., 1,984 (324); Chas. Doerr, dem., 1,660.

*Congress*—W. G. Donnan, rep., 1,769; John T. Stoneman, dem., 1,857 (88).

*District Judge*—Milo McGlathery, rep., 1,990.

*District Attorney*—C. T. Granger, rep., 1,993.

*Supervisors*—O. W. Crary, rep., 2,076 (381); P. P. Olmstead, rep., 1,897 (231); Henry White, rep., 1,760; Michael Uriell, dem., 1,770 (10); C. P. Goodrich, dem., 1,666; J. C. Rounds, dem., 1,695.

*Clerk*—H. S. Granger, rep., 2,127.

*Recorder*—R. L. Freeman, dem., 1,971 (306); Peter Karberg, rep., 1,665.

*Increasing Supervisors to 7*—For, 913; against, 1,868 (955).

*Restraining Stock*—For, 870; against, 2,225 (1,355).

*State Convention*—For, 724; against, 1,696 (972).

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1871

*Governor*—C. C. Carpenter, rep., 1,952 (319); J. C. Knapp, dem., 1,633.

*Senator*—O. W. Crary, rep., 1,845 (109); John T. Stoneman, dem., 1,736.

*Representatives*—Louis Reuther, rep., 1,745 (58); R. B. Flenniken, rep., 1,904 (401); J. M. Hagensick, dem., 1,687; Rufus Richardson, dem., 1,503; R. C. Place, dem., 250.

*Supervisor*—Gilbert Cooley, rep., 1,801 (80); John H. Bowman, dem., 1,721.

*Auditor*—Martin Garber, rep., 1,909 (259); A. W. Daugherty, dem., 1,650.

*Treasurer*—Henry Kellner, rep., 1,941.

*Sheriff*—James Davis, rep., 1,827 (81); T. M. Hopkins, dem., 1,746.

*Superintendent*—O. D. Oathout, rep., 1,512; John Everall, dem., 2,066 (544).

*Surveyor*—S. L. Peck, rep., 1,974 (371); Ezra Hurd, dem., 1,630.

*Coroner*—H. D. Brownson, rep., 3,571.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1872

*President*—U. S. Grant, rep., 2,298 (201); Horace Greeley, lib., 2,097; Chas. O'Conner, 27.

*Congress*—John T. Stoneman, dem., 2,386 (285); William G. Donnan, rep., 2,101.

*Circuit Judge*—C. T. Granger, rep., 4,462.

*Clerk*—Marvin Cook, rep., 2,320 (176); L. A. Mahoney, dem., 2,156.

*Recorder*—Robert L. Freeman, dem., 2,300 (119); John D. Meyer, rep., 2,181.

*Supervisor*—P. P. Olmstead, rep., 2,357 (235); William P. Eno, dem., 2,122.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1873

*Governor*—C. C. Carpenter, rep., 1,566; J. G. Vale, dem., 1,997 (431).

*District Attorney*—O. J. Clark, rep., 1,536.

*Representative*—A. F. Tipton, rep., 1,442; Alexander Bleidung, rep., 1,675; J. C. Rounds, dem., 2,047 (605); B. F. Schroeder, dem., 1,878 (203).

*Auditor*—Martin Garber, rep., 1,791.

*Treasurer*—Henry Kellner, rep., 2,143 (736); Adolph Papin, dem., 1,407.

*Sheriff*—J. A. Hysham, rep., 1,335; W. A. Benton, dem., 2,186 (851).

*Superintendent*—J. F. Thompson, rep., 1,762.

*Surveyor*—E. Hurd, dem., 1,848 (112); S. L. Peck, rep., 1,736.

*Coroner*—H. D. Brownson, rep., 3,563.

*Supervisor*—M. Uriell, dem., 1,937 (318); J. R. Jarrett, rep., 1,616.

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1874

*Secretary of State*—D. Morgan, dem., 1,953 (582); J. T. Young, rep., 1,371.



*Congress*—L. L. Ainsworth, dem., 1,921 (507); C. T. Granger, rep., 1,414.

*District Judge*—R. Noble, dem., 2,354 (1,380); M. McGlathery, rep., 968.

*District Attorney*—G. L. Faust, dem., 2,109 (881); O. G. Clark, rep., 1,227.

*Clerk*—A. C. Rogers, dem., 1,494; M. Cook, rep., 1,843 (349).

*Recorder*—R. L. Freeman, dem., 2,043 (754); John Crooke, rep., 1,289.

*Supervisor*—C. Mentzel, dem., 1,605; W. Thoma, rep., 1,737 (132).

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1875

*Governor*—S. J. Kirkwood, rep., 1,839; Shepherd Leffler, dem., 2,171 (332).

*Senator*—O. W. Crary, rep., 1,942; John T. Stoneman, dem., 2,055 (113).

*Representatives*—J. L. Hagensick, rep., 1,873; James Newberry, rep., 1,572; Chas. Mentzel, dem., 2,317 (444); Thos. D. White, dem., 2,138 (566).

*Auditor*—Martin Garber, rep., 2,167 (326); John Everall, dem., 1,841.

*Treasurer*—Henry Kellner, rep., 2,060 (133); J. M. Hagensick, dem., 1,927.

*Sheriff*—James Jack, rep., 1,524; W. A. Benton, dem., 2,477 (953).

*Superintendent*—J. F. Thompson, rep., 2,015.

*Surveyor*—S. L. Peck, rep., 1,959; Emmett Brown, dem., 2,056 (97).

*Coroner*—J. C. Hoxsie, dem., 2,148.

*Supervisor*—Isaac Otis, dem., 2,100 (181); P. P. Olmstead, rep., 1,919.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1876

*President*—Rutherford B. Hayes, rep., 2,661 (40); Samuel J. Tilden, dem., 2,621.

*Congress*—T. W. Burdick, rep., 2,662 (15); J. M. Griffith, dem., 2,647.

*Circuit Judge*—C. T. Granger, rep., 2,676.

*Clerk*—Marvin Cook, rep., 3,004 (680); B. P. Ransom, dem., 2,324.

*Recorder*—C. L. McGonigle, dem., 2,717 (182); H. C. Boardman, rep., 2,535.

*Surveyor*—Chas. Schecker, rep., 2,877 (430); J. H. Zearley, dem., 2,447.

*Supervisor*—A. Eberhard, dem., 2,909 (519); O. W. Crary, rep., 2,390.

*Supervisor (to fill vacancy)*—P. P. Olmstead, rep., 2,662 (46); R. Humphrey, dem., 2,616.

*Restraining Stock*—For, 1,376; against, 2,625 (1,249).

## ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1877

*Governor*—John H. Gear, rep., 1,873 (103); John P. Irish, dem., 1,770; Daniel P. Stubbs, 66; Elias Jusup, 167.

*Representatives*—Thos. Updegraff, rep., 2,151 (456); A. Bleidung, rep., 1,949 (114); T. D. White, dem., 1,835; Chas. Mentzel, dem., 1,695.

*Sheriff*—W. A. Benton, dem., 2,138 (410); George L. Tremain, rep., 1,728.

*Treasurer*—Henry Kellner, rep., 1,947 (21); Chas. E. Floete, dem., 1,926.

*Auditor*—Martin Garber, rep., 2,268 (693); Patrick Regan, dem., 1,575.

*Superintendent*—P. W. McClelland, rep., 2,158 (446); W. A. McDonald, dem., 1,712.

*Surveyor*—Chas. Schecker, rep., 2,205 (534); John Zearley, dem., 1,671.

*Coroner*—W. A. Penfile, rep., 2,123 (186); J. C. Hoxsie, dem., 1,837.

*Supervisor*—P. P. Olmstead, rep., 2,147 (481); James McKinley, dem., 1,693.

## ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1878

*Secretary of State*—J. A. T. Hull, rep., 2,428; E. M. Farnsworth, dem., 2,445 (17).

*Congress*—Thos. Updegraff, rep., 2,507 (808); Fred O'Donnell, dem., 1,699; S. T. Spangler, greenback, 688.

*District Judge*—O. J. Clark, rep., 1,383; Reuben Noble, dem., 3,496 (2,113).

*District Attorney*—Robert Quigley, rep., 2,601 (325); C. Welling-ton, dem., 2,276.

*Clerk*—Marvin Cook, rep., 3,021 (1,390); O. L. Emery, dem., 1,631.

*Recorder*—T. G. Price, rep., 2,101; C. L. McGonigle, dem., 2,776 (675).

*Supervisor*—O. W. Crary, rep., 2,366; G. H. Scofield, dem., 2,520 (154).

*Restraining Stock*—For, 1,618; against, 2,181 (563).

## ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1879

*Governor*—John H. Gear, rep., 2,693 (474); H. H. Trimble, dem., 2,219; Daniel Campbell, gb., 192; D. R. Dungan, 19.

*Senator*—Martin Garber, rep., 2,716 (322); John T. Stoneman, dem., 2,394.

*Representatives*—Gregor McGregor, rep., 2,884 (381); Eugene Meuth, rep., 2,503; John Van Staden, dem., 2,592 (89); O. B. Blanchard, dem., 2,096.

*Treasurer*—C. E. Floete, dem., 2,494 (146); L. F. Carrier, rep., 2,348; Adolph Papin, gb., 248.

*Auditor*—J. M. Leach, rep., 2,618 (138); John Everall, dem., 2,480.

*Superintendent*—P. W. McClelland, rep., 2,719 (385); J. Briggs, dem., 2,334.

*Sheriff*—L. H. Place, dem., 2,795 (511); James Schroeder, rep., 2,284.

*Supervisor*—Helmuth Brandt, rep., 2,716 (364); James Uriell, dem., 2,352.

*Surveyor*—Chas. Schecker, rep., 2,769 (417); Ezra Hurd, dem., 2,352.

*Coroner*—W. A. Penfield, rep., 2,685 (273); E. C. Hills, dem., 2,412.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1880

*President*—James A. Garfield, rep., 3,098 (679); W. S. Hancock, dem., 2,419; J. B. Weaver, gb., 108; Neal Dow, prohib., 6.

*Circuit Judge*—C. T. Granger, rep., 3,116 (3,002); O. J. Clark, rep., 114.

*Circuit Judge (to fill vacancy)*—E. C. Cooley, rep., 2,742 (55); O. J. Clark, rep., 2,687.

*Congress*—Thos. Updegraff, rep., 3,119 (731); William G. Stewart, dem., 2,388; M. H. Moore, gb., 99.

*Striking "Free White" from Constitution*—For, 2,201 (830); against, 1,371.

*Constitutional Convention*—For, 1,187; against, 1,826 (639).

*Clerk*—J. F. Thompson, rep., 3,169 (816); Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 2,354; D. E. Grout, gb., 90.

*Recorder*—Chas. Schecker, rep., 2,961 (392); Chas. L. McGonigle, dem., 2,569; Hezekiah Doolittle, gb., 78.

*Supervisor*—A. F. Nichols, rep., 3,104 (663); James McKinley, dem., 2,441; W. P. Eno, gb., 77.

*Restraining Stock*—For, 2,033; against, 2,300 (267).

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1881

*Governor*—Buren R. Sherman, rep., 2,151 (199); L. G. Kinney, dem., 1,917; D. W. Clark, gb., 32; W. M. Johnston, prohib., 3.

*Representatives*—Eugene Meuth, rep., 2,027; Gregor McGregor, rep., 2,190 (110); J. H. Bowman, dem., 1,625; John Van Staden, dem., 2,080 (53); L. F. Carrier, gb., 155; G. L. C. Scott, gb., 169.

*Auditor*—J. M. Leach, rep., 2,363 (2,260); Robert Lindsay, dem., 103.

*Treasurer*—C. E. Floete, dem., 2,626 (1,166); Adam Schneider, rep., 1,460.

*Sheriff*—L. H. Place, dem., 2,175 (335); C. Morgan, rep., 1,840; David Moody, 84.

*Surveyor*—S. L. Peck, rep., 2,287 (609); J. H. Zearley, dem., 1,678.

*Superintendent*—O. D. Oathout, rep., 2,100 (91); John Everall, dem., 2,009.



*Coroner*—W. A. Penfield, rep., 2,127 (373); John W. Stahl, dem., 1,754; George Comstock, 90; George Scofield, 88; F. C. Madison, 34.

*Supervisor*—George H. Schofield, dem., 1,995 (153); George Comstock, rep., 1,842; F. C. Madison, 48.

*Restraining Stock*—For, 1,635; against, 2,085 (450).

#### SPECIAL ELECTION, JUNE, 1882

*Prohibitory Amendment*—For amendment, 1,823; against, 2,965 (1,142).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1882

*Secretary of State*—J. A. T. Hull, rep., 1,922; T. O. Walker, dem., 2,645 (723); W. J. Gaston, gb., 102.

*Congress*—Thos. Updegraff, rep., 2,228 (67); L. H. Weller, dem., 2,161.

*District Judge*—E. C. Cooley, rep., 1,421; L. O. Hatch, dem., 3,209 (1,788).

*District Attorney*—H. P. Hancock, rep., 1,849; C. Wellington, dem., 2,792 (943).

*Clerk*—J. F. Thompson, rep., 2,537 (456); James E. Corlett, dem., 2,081.

*Recorder*—Chas. Schecker, rep., 2,413 (188); Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 2,225.

*Supervisor*—Helmuth Brandt, rep., 2,162; Frank Schoulte, dem., 2,469 (307).

#### ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1883

*Governor*—Buren R. Sherman, rep., 2,196; L. G. Kinney, dem., 2,926 (730); J. B. Weaver, gb., 60.

*Senator*—James P. Patrick, rep., 2,530; F. D. Bayless, dem., 2,645 (115).

*Representatives*—Henry Meder, rep., 2,307; H. S. Merritt, rep., 2,273 (555); Chas. Mentzel, dem., 2,828 (586); John Killem, dem., 2,893.

*Auditor*—J. M. Leach, rep., 2,269; John Everall, dem., 2,909 (640).

*Treasurer*—Gustav Dittmer, rep., 2,357; Chas. E. Floete, dem., 2,808 (451).

*Sheriff*—Peter Flaherty, rep., 2,493; August Borman, dem., 2,550 (57).

*Surveyor*—S. L. Peck, rep., 2,234; J. H. Zearley, dem., 2,938 (704).

*Superintendent*—O. D. Oathout, rep., 2,384; George Smart, dem., 2,759 (375).

*Coroner*—Thomas Fisher, rep., 2,241; J. W. Pain, dem., 2,926 (685).

*Supervisor*—A. F. Nichols, rep., 2,199; James McKinley, dem., 2,966 (767).

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1884

*President*—James G. Blaine, rep., 2,536; Grover Cleveland, dem., 3,219 (683).

*Congress*—W. E. Fuller, rep., 2,502; L. H. Weller, dem., 3,262 (760).

*Circuit Judge*—C. T. Granger, rep., 2,507; John F. Dayton, dem., 3,268 (761).

*Clerk*—V. F. Davis, rep., 2,679; J. E. Corlett, dem., 3,078 (399).

*Recorder*—Chas. Schecker, rep., 2,794; Mathew Fitzpatrick, dem., 2,970 (176).

*Supervisor*—George White, rep., 2,517; John H. Welch, dem., 3,240 (723).

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1885

*Governor*—Chas. E. Whiting, dem., 2,975; William Larrabee, rep., 2,133 (842).

*Representatives*—John Killem, dem., 3,078 (812); J. F. Thompson, dem., 2,898 (632); Samuel Murdock, rep., 2,266; John Keeling, rep., 1,929.

*Auditor*—John Everall, dem., 3,088 (1,051); Wilkes Williames, rep., 2,037.

*Treasurer*—Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 2,975 (829); Chas. Schecker, rep., 2,146.

*Sheriff*—August Boeman, dem., 2,814 (512); L. G. Webb, rep., 2,302.

*Superintendent*—George Smart, dem., 2,997 (879); C. C. Keen, rep., 2,118.

*Surveyor*—John Zearley, dem., 3,003 (887); S. L. Peck, rep., 2,116.

*Coroner*—John W. Cain, dem., 2,729 (372); C. W. Duffin, rep., 2,357.

*Supervisor*—Frank Shoulte, dem., 2,652 (233); Nick Friedlein, rep., 2,419.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1886

*Secretary of State*—Frank D. Jackson, rep., 2,169; Cato Sells, dem., 3,227 (1,056).

*District Judge*—C. T. Granger, rep., 2,147; H. T. Read, rep., 1,985; L. O. Hatch, dem., 3,398 (1,251); John F. Dayton, dem., 3,241 (1,094).

*Clerk*—J. E. Corlett, dem., 3,266.

*Recorder*—T. H. Olson, rep., 2,147; M. Fitzpatrick, dem., 3,242 (1,094).

*Supervisor*—N. Friedlein, rep., 2,234; James McKinley, dem., 3,159 (925).

*Attorney*—T. M. Davidson, rep., 2,324; Robert Quigley, dem., 3,040 (715).

*Congress*—W. E. Fuller, rep., 2,175; W. C. Earle, dem., 3,219 (1,044).

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1887

*Governor*—William Larrabee, rep., 1,960; T. J. Anderson, dem., 3,175 (1,165).

*Senator*—J. P. Patrick, rep., 2,340; F. D. Bayless, dem., 2,798 (458).

*Representatives*—W. W. Goodwin, rep., 2,031; J. F. Thompson, dem., 3,081 (1,050).

*Auditor*—J. W. Buhlmann, rep., 1,874; John Everall, dem., 3,268 (1,394).

*Treasurer*—Henry Meyer, rep., 1,125; Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 3,281 (2,156).

*Sheriff*—William Wellman, rep., 2,079; J. J. Kann, dem., 3,024 (945).

*Surveyor*—S. L. Peck, rep., 2,025; A. C. Hagensick, dem., 3,082 (1,057).

*Superintendent*—J. W. Wyatt, rep., 2,152; H. C. Bishop, dem., 2,991 (839).

*Coroner*—L. L. Renshaw, rep., 2,131; J. W. Cain, dem., 3,003 (872).

*Supervisor*—Patrick Costigan, rep., 2,178; John Luther, dem., 2,975 (797).

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1888

*President*—Benjamin Harrison, rep., 2,576; Grover Cleveland, dem., 3,311 (735).

*Congress*—J. H. Sweeney, rep., 2,572; L. S. Reque, dem., 3,349 (777).

*Clerk*—William C. McNeil, rep., 2,525; James E. Corlett, dem., 3,420 (895).

*Recorder*—Thomas H. Oleson, rep., 2,569; M. Fitzpatrick, dem., 3,374 (805).

*Attorney*—Samuel Murdock, rep., 2,709; Robert Quigley, dem., 3,222 (513).

*Supervisor*—George McGregor, rep., 2,815; John H. Welch, dem., 3,122 (307).

*Restraining Stock*—For, 2,537 (160); against, 2,377.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1889

*Governor*—Horace Boies, dem., 3,395 (1,626); J. G. Hutchinson, rep., 1,735.

*Judge*—W. A. Hoyt, dem., 3,395 (1,539); L. E. Fellows, rep., 1,802.

*Representative*—George L. Gilbert, dem., 3,268 (1,382); Thos. Edgar, rep., 1,886.

*Auditor*—E. W. Adams, dem., 3,378 (1,614); G. P. Burgess, rep., 1,763.

*Treasurer*—Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 3,388.

*Sheriff*—J. J. Kann, dem., 3,286 (1,473); Alexander Blake, rep., 1,810.



*Superintendent*—H. C. Bishop, dem., 3,219 (1,309); J. N. Dahn, rep., 1,910.

*Coroner*—F. J. Kriebs, dem., 3,266 (1,391); L. L. Renshaw, rep., 1,867.

*Supervisor*—James Rogers, dem., 3,104 (1,069); J. W. Kregel, rep., 2,035.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1890

*Secretary of State*—W. H. Chamberlin, dem., 3,437 (1,305); W. W. McFarland, rep., 2,132.

*Congress*—W. H. Butler, dem., 3,490 (1,416); J. H. Sweeney, rep., 1,974.

*District Judges*—L. O. Hatch, dem., 3,554 (1,501); William A. Hoyt, dem., 3,527 (1,587); A. C. Stewart, rep., 2,053; J. W. Sandusky, rep., 1,940.

*Clerk*—M. P. Dunn, dem., 3,380 (1,195); T. M. Davidson, rep., 2,185.

*Recorder*—Fred H. Soll, dem., 3,395 (1,221); John Anderegg, rep., 2,174.

*Attorney*—D. D. Murphy, dem., 3,453 (1,356); R. E. Price, rep., 2,098.

*Supervisor*—Joseph Andres, dem., 3,492 (1,412); Fred Arnold, rep., 2,080.

*Surveyor*—A. Burlingame, dem., 3,462 (1,349); Ole Nelson, rep., 2,113.

*Constitutional Convention*—For, 228; against, 3,281 (3,053).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1891

*Governor*—Horace Boies, dem., 3,580 (1,511); H. C. Wheeler, rep., 2,060.

*Senator*—John Everall, dem., 3,579 (1,528); Martin Garber, rep., 2,051.

*Representative*—George L. Gilbert, dem., 2,550 (1,471); C. A. Meuth, rep., 2,079.

*Supervisor*—Charles Mentzel, dem., 3,484 (1,333); H. B. Wheeler, rep., 2,151.

*Treasurer*—Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 3,627.

*Sheriff*—J. J. Kann, dem., 2,959 (380); Fred Bergman, rep., 2,579.

*Surveyor*—A. Burlingame, dem., 3,580 (1,525); Ole Nelson, rep., 2,055.

*Superintendent*—H. C. Bishop, dem., 3,414 (1,222); O. D. Oathout, rep., 2,192.

*Coroner*—F. J. Kriebs, dem., 3,553 (1,479); B. F. Hall, rep., 2,074.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1892

*President*—Grover Cleveland, dem., 3,337 (894); Benjamin Harrison, rep., 2,443.

*Congress*—W. H. Butler, dem., 3,349 (868); Thos. Updegraff, rep., 2,481.

*Auditor*—E. W. Adams, dem., 3,409 (991); C. T. Peick, rep., 2,418.

*Clerk*—M. P. Dunn, dem., 3,358 (889); Chas. Newberry, rep., 2,469.

*Attorney*—D. D. Murphy, dem., 3,361 (908); V. T. Price, rep., 2,453.

*Recorder*—F. H. Soll, dem., 3,389 (952); A. P. Bock, rep., 2,437.

*Supervisor*—James Rogers, dem., 3,328 (825); P. P. Olmstead, Jr., rep., 2,503.

*Surveyor*—J. H. Zearley, dem., 3,370 (915); Ole Nelson, rep., 2,455.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1893

*Governor*—Horace Boies, dem., 2,961 (709); Frank B. Jackson, rep., 2,252.

*Representative*—C. L. McGonigle, dem., 2,847 (430); Q. A. Sloane, rep., 2,417.

*Treasurer*—Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 5,248.

*Sheriff*—J. K. Molumby, dem., 1,780; Fred Cook, rep., 3,544 (1,764).

*Surveyor*—J. H. Zearley, dem., 2,884 (511); Ole Nelson, rep., 2,373.

*Superintendent*—Sumner Miller, dem., 3,006 (734); Daniel Costigan, rep., 2,272.

*Coroner*—F. J. Kroebs, dem., 2,861 (465); L. D. Shambaugh, rep., 2,396.

*Supervisor*—W. H. Oelke, dem., 2,237; William Monlux, rep., 3,024 (787).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1894

*Secretary of State*—H. F. Dale, dem., 2,773 (232); W. M. McFarland, rep., 2,541.

*Congress*—J. F. Babcock, dem., 2,689 (37); Thomas Updegraff, rep., 2,652.

*Judges*—J. F. Dayton, dem., 2,916 (401); W. A. Hoyt, dem., 2,946 (431); L. E. Fellows, rep., 2,515; A. N. Hobson, rep., 2,486.

*Judge (to fill vacancy)*—E. E. Cooley, dem., 2,333.

*Auditor*—E. W. Adams, dem., 2,879 (347); G. M. Gifford, rep., 2,532.

*Clerk*—M. P. Dunn, dem., 2,801 (181); R. M. Fonda, Jr., rep., 2,620.

*Attorney*—J. E. Corlett, dem., 2,797 (168); V. T. Price, rep., 2,629.

*Recorder*—F. H. Soll, dem., 2,751 (97); John G. Hemple, rep., 2,654.

*Supervisor*—George H. Scofield, dem., 2,699; Henry Meder, rep., 2,708 (9).

The election of Meder was contested and Scofield declared elected.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1895

*Governor*—W. I. Babb, dem., 2,881 (484); F. M. Drake, rep., 2,397.

*Senator*—John Everall, dem., 2,984 (582); R. E. Price, rep., 2,402.

*Representative*—T. J. Sullivan, dem., 2,731 (64); Henry Meder, rep., 2,667.

*Treasurer*—Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 3,023 (648); John F. Becker, rep., 2,375.

*Sheriff*—E. E. Benton, dem., 3,005 (596); A. C. Boyle, rep., 2,409.

*Superintendent*—Sumner Miller, dem., 3,054 (730); Jessie Brown, rep., 2,324.

*Supervisor*—J. F. W. Kaiser, dem., 2,882 (392); N. Friedlein, rep., 2,490.

*Coroner*—C. E. Scholz, dem., 2,855 (334); G. H. Porter, rep., 2,521.

*Surveyor*—H. L. Dayton, dem., 2,825 (273); Ole Nelson, rep., 2,552.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1896

*President*—William McKinley, rep., 3,302 (384); William J. Bryan, dem., 2,854.

*Congress*—Thos. Updegraff, rep., 3,301 (327); F. D. Bayless, dem., 2,957.

*Auditor*—John C. Hemple, rep., 3,157 (33); A. C. Hagensick, dem., 3,124.

*Attorney*—T. M. Davidson, rep., 3,224 (183); J. E. Corlett, dem., 3,041.

*Clerk*—Daniel Costigan, rep., 3,281 (286); McB. McGonigle, dem., 2,995.

*Recorder*—T. H. Olson, rep., 3,075; John H. Hill, dem., 3,196 (122).

*Supervisor*—William Monlux, rep., 3,370 (470); John Luther dem., 2,900.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1897

*Governor*—L. M. Shaw, rep., 2,499; F. E. White, dem., 2,692 (193).

*Representative*—P. P. Olmstead, rep., 2,568; P. W. Conley, dem., 2,644 (46).

*Treasurer*—J. F. Becker, rep., 2,305; Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 2,951 (646).

*Sheriff*—C. G. Schmidt, rep., 2,137; E. E. Benton, dem., 3,090 (953).

*Superintendent*—J. N. Dahm, rep., 2,395; Sumner Miller, dem., 2,809 (414).

*Supervisor*—H. G. Jenkins, rep., 2,749 (282); August Huene, dem., 2,467.

*Coroner*—C. Schnepf, rep., 2,531; C. E. Scholz, dem., 2,655 (124).



*Surveyor*—Ole Nelson, rep., 2,509; H. L. Dayton, dem., 2,676 (167).

*Insane Asylum*—For, 1819 (846); against, 973.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1898

*Secretary of State*—G. L. Dobson, rep., 2,730 (136); C. R. Porter, dem., 2,594.

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 2,748 (177); T. T. Blaise, dem., 2,571.

*Judge*—L. E. Fellows, rep., 2,801 (211); A. N. Hobson, rep., 2,736 (146); Robert Quigley, dem., 2,500.

*Auditor*—J. G. Hemple, rep., 2,734 (38); A. C. Hagensick, dem., 2,696.

*Clerk*—Dan Costigan, rep., 3,017 (645); G. H. Schulte, dem., 2,372.

*Recorder*—H. W. Scott, rep., 2,571; J. H. Hill, dem., 2,810 (239).

*Attorney*—T. M. Davidson, rep., 2,910 (442); John McMorrow, dem., 2,468.

*Supervisor*—Henry Meder, rep., 2,861 (350); William Kaiser, dem., 2,511.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1899

*Governor*—Leslie M. Shaw, rep., 2,606; F. E. White, dem., 2,754 (148).

*Senator*—B. W. Newberry, rep., 2,680; H. C. Bishop, dem., 2,712 (32).

*Representative*—H. D. Brown, rep., 2,671; P. W. Conley, dem., 2,712 (41).

*Treasurer*—J. N. Dahm, rep., 2,318; Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 3,094 (776).

*Sheriff*—S. S. Wellman, rep., 2,075; E. E. Benton, dem., 3,340 (1,265).

*Superintendent*—T. A. Foote, rep., 2,566; Chas. J. Adams dem., 2,801 (235).

*Supervisor*—A. S. Houg, rep., 2,467; John H. Splies, dem., 2,884 (417).

*Coroner*—C. Schnepf, rep., 2,665; A. A. Schmidt, dem., 2,690 (25).

*Surveyor*—Ole Nelson, rep., 2,570; J. H. Zearley, dem., 2,774 (204).

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1900

*President*—William McKinley, rep., 3,366 (482); William J. Bryan, dem., 2,884.

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 3,350 (482); John Foley, dem., 2,868.

*Auditor*—J. G. Hemple, rep., 3,475 (671); W. H. Reinecke, dem., 2,804.

*Clerk*—Dan Costigan, rep., 3,414 (558); Dan Ivory, dem., 2,856.

*Recorder*—S. J. Beddow, rep., 3,133; John H. Hill, dem., 3,136 (\*3).

*Attorney*—T. M. Davidson, rep., 3,418 (557); John McMorrow, dem., 2,861.

*Supervisor*—Horace Jenkins, rep., 3,273 (294); W. H. Scholtz, dem., 2,979.

\* Election of Hill was contested and decided in his favor.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1901

*Governor*—A. B. Cummins, rep., 2,487 (298); T. J. Phillips, dem., 2,189.

*Representative*—J. C. Flenniken, rep., 2,601 (498); E. A. Bush, dem., 2,103; T. J. Mahathey, pop., 101.

*Treasurer*—H. Lueshen, Jr., rep., 2,101; Chas. Reugnitz, dem., 2,588 (487).

*Sheriff*—E. E. Benton, dem., 2,751 (2,577); G. B. Deilo, pop., 174.

*Coroner*—J. H. Griffin, rep., 2,435 (170); Michael Regan, dem., 2,265.

*Superintendent*—E. A. Schiefelbein, rep., 2,318; C. J. Adam, dem., 2,382 (64).

*Surveyor*—Ole Nelson, rep., 2,382 (76); J. H. Zearley, dem., 2,306.

*Supervisor*—Henry Meder, rep., 2,365 (7); J. F. Schug, dem., 2,358.

Meders election contested, Meder wins by 5.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1902

*Secretary of State*—W. B. Martin, rep., 2,721 (115); R. Burke, dem., 2,606.

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 2,606; A. L. Sorter, Jr., dem., 2,739 (135).

*Judge*—L. E. Fellows, 2,925 (16); A. N. Hobson, 2,909.

*Auditor*—J. G. Hemple, rep., 2,718 (18); Otto Germar, dem., 2,700.

*Clerk*—Dan Costigan, rep., 2,911 (432); D. G. Griffith, dem., 2,479.

*Recorder*—S. J. Beddow, rep., 2,552; James Carroll, dem., 2,800 (248).

*Attorney*—T. M. Davidson, rep., 2,763 (138); J. C. McMorrow, dem., 2,625.

*Treasurer*—J. F. Becker, rep., 2,535; W. F. Reinecke, dem., 2,835 (300).

*Supervisor*—John N. Baird, rep., 2,470; S. H. F. Shoulte, dem., 2,908 (438).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1903

*Governor*—A. B. Cummins, rep., 2,945 (261); J. B. Sullivan, dem., 2,684.

*Senator*—B. W. Newberry, rep., 3,133 (531); H. C. Bishop, dem., 2,602.

*Representative*—J. C. Flenniken, rep., 2,966 (273) ; James Adams, dem., 2,693.

*Treasurer*—H. A. Mallory, rep., 2,748 ; W. F. Reinecke, dem., 2,925 (177).

*Sheriff*—George Losch, rep., 2,782 ; Martin Dittmer, dem., 2,936 (154).

*Superintendent*—C. D. McGoon, rep., 2,593 ; C. J. Adam, dem., 3,082 (480).

*Coroner*—J. H. Craig, rep., 2,859 (78) ; William Jones, dem., 2,781.

*Surveyor*—Ole Nelson, rep., 2,873 (122) ; J. H. Zearley, dem., 2,751.

*Supervisor*—A. S. Houg, rep., 2,967 (293) ; C. G. Anderegg, dem., 2,674.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1904

*President*—Theodore Roosevelt, rep., 3,339 (711) ; Alton B. Parker, dem., 2,628.

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 3,322 (745) ; W. O. Holman, dem., 2,577.

*Auditor*—J. G. Hemple, rep., 2,876 ; T. L. Harvey, dem., 3,141 (265).

*Clerk*—Ray Webb, rep., 3,222 (436) ; P. W. Conley, dem., 2,786.

*Recorder*—J. E. Webb, rep., 3,003 (23) ; James Carroll, dem., 2,980.

*Attorney*—V. T. Price, rep., 2,853 ; M. X. Geske, dem., 3,166 (313).

*Supervisor*—L. S. Fisher, rep., 2,995 (16) ; L. B. Blanchard, dem., 2,979.

*Biennial Elections*—For, 1,937 ; against, 2,644 (707).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER 1906

*Governor*—A. B. Cummins, rep., 2,790 (76) ; C. R. Porter, dem., 2,714.

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 2,817 (344) ; M. J. Carter, dem., 2,473.

*Judges*—L. E. Fellows, rep., 2,890 (434) ; A. N. Hobson, rep., 2,756 (149) ; George W. Adams, dem., 2,456 ; Robert Quigley, dem., 2,607.

*Representative*—J. C. Flenniken, rep., 2,530 ; G. H. Schulte, dem., 2,838 (308).

*Auditor*—C. J. Cords, rep., 2,309 ; T. L. Harvey, dem., 3,181 (872).

*Treasurer*—George Witt, rep., 2,486 ; W. F. Reinecke, dem., 2,936 (450).

*Clerk*—Ray Webb, rep., 3,311 (1,158) ; J. F. Carroll, dem., 2,153.

*Sheriff*—J. H. Schmidt, rep., 1,885 ; Martin Dittmer, dem., 3,605 (1,720).

*Recorder*—J. E. Webb, rep., 2,834 (168) ; J. W. McLaughlin, dem., 2,666.



*Attorney*—W. W. Davidson, rep., 2,469; M. X. Geske, dem., 2,966 (497).

*Superintendent*—D. E. Livingood, rep., 2,736; C. J. Adam, dem., 2,744 (8).

*Surveyor*—Ole Nelson, rep., 2,718 (103); J. H. Zearley, dem., 2,615.

*Coroner*—W. J. Beermann, rep., 2,902 (468); A. J. Pappin, dem., 2,434.

*Supervisors*—H. A. Mallory, rep., 2,830 (379); H. P. Krueger, dem., 2,451; A. S. Houg, rep., 2,761 (235); John H. Leui, dem., 2,526; L. S. Fisher, rep., 3,038 (790); Seymour Phillips, dem., 2,248.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1908

*President*—William H. Taft, rep., 2,773; William J. Bryan, dem., 3,026 (253).

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 2,397; M. E. Geiser, dem., 3,098 (701).

*Senator*—B. W. Newberry, rep., 2,656; Robert Quigley, dem., 2,899 (233).

*Representative*—Wilkes Williams, rep., 2,332; G. H. Schulte, dem., 3,180 (848).

*Auditor*—C. J. Cords, rep., 2,714; D. F. Willmes, dem., 2,820 (106).

*Treasurer*—C. F. Meier, rep., 2,727 (1); J. W. Forward, dem., 2,726.

*Clerk*—Otto G. Embertson, rep., 2,499; Max B. Bishop, dem., 3,073 (547).

*Sheriff*—George Losch, rep., 2,493; Martin Dittmer, dem., 3,148 (655).

*Recorder*—J. E. Webb, rep., 2,394; J. W. McLaughlin, dem., 3,195 (801).

*Attorney*—George H. Fletcher, rep., 2,671; Chas. E. Scholz, dem., 2,904 (233).

*Superintendent*—D. E. Livingood, rep., 2,620; Thos. R. Roberts, dem., 2,964 (344).

*Surveyor*—Ole Nelson, rep., 2,409; J. H. Zearley, dem., 3,072 (663).

*Coroner*—W. J. Beermann, rep., 2,767 (60); L. A. Zearley, dem., 2,707.

*Supervisor*—H. A. Mallory, rep., 2,687; A. B. Albrecht, dem., 2,763 (76); Frank J. Corlett, rep., 2,356; C. E. Witt, dem., 3,144 (788).

*Clerk (to fill vacancy)*—B. F. Falkenhainer, 64 (52); Max B. Bishop, 12.

*Drainage Amendment*—For, 2,113; against, 2,575 (462).

*Additional Land for Hospital*—For, 1,702; against, 3,234 (1,532).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1910

*Governor*—B. F. Carroll, rep., 2,152; C. R. Porter, dem., 2,906 (754).

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 1,807; D. D. Murphy, dem., 3,209 (1,402).

*Judges*—L. F. Fellows, rep., 2,709 (47); A. N. Hobson, rep., 2,662.

*Representative*—L. L. Renshaw, rep., 2,181; Frank Gilbert, dem., 2,684 (503).

*Auditor*—Knud H. Knudson, rep., 1,922; D. F. Willmes, dem., 2,991 (1,069).

*Treasurer*—Christ F. Meier, rep., 2,788 (679); H. E. W. Kaiser, dem., 2,109.

*Clerk*—D. C. Hale, rep., 1,861; Max B. Bishop, dem., 3,120 (1,259).

*Sheriff*—Doug Brown, rep., 1,970; E. Bergemeyer, dem., 3,048 (1,078).

*Recorder*—John Foster, rep., 1,870; James W. McLaughlin, dem., 3,061 (1,191).

*Attorney*—Chas. E. Scholz, dem., 3,414.

*Superintendent*—Carl F. Becker, rep., 1,978; Thos. R. Roberts, dem., 2,904 (926).

*Surveyor*—Phillip Curran, dem., 3,167.

*Coroner*—W. J. Beerman, rep., 2,333; L. A. Zearley, dem., 2,482 (149).

*Supervisors*—L. S. Fisher, rep., 2,205; Fred Groth, dem., 2,726 (521); Henry Whitford, rep., 1,972; A. B. Albrecht, dem., 2,816 (944).

*Constitutional Convention*—For, 1,912; against, 2,581 (669).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1912

*President*—W. H. Taft, rep., 1,239; Woodrow Wilson, dem., 2,919 (1,448); Theodore Roosevelt, prog., 1,471.

*Governor*—G. W. Clark, rep., 1,916; Edward G. Dunn, dem., 2,780 (864); John L. Stevens, prog., 684.

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 2,322; G. A. Mayer, dem., 2,969 (647).

*Judge (to fill vacancy)*—W. J. Springer, rep., 2,283; D. J. Murphy, dem., 3,029 (746).

*Senator*—L. S. Fisher, rep., 2,237; Robert Quigley, dem., 3,054 (817).

*Representative*—F. C. Gilmore, rep., 2,385; Charles E. Scholz, dem., 2,960 (575).

*Auditor*—John Adam, rep., 2,855 (212); D. F. Willmes, dem., 2,643.

*Treasurer*—G. J. Graf, rep., 2,896 (371); J. A. Maiers, dem., 2,525.

*Clerk*—D. C. Hale, rep., 2,452; Max B. Bishop, dem., 3,055 (603).

*Sheriff*—Frank Wood, rep., 1,859; E. Bergemeyer, dem., 3,623 (1,764).

*Recorder*—John Foster, rep., 2,335; J. W. McLaughlin, dem., 3,082 (747).

*Attorney*—D. W. Meier, rep., 2,081; G. H. Shoulte, dem., 3,333 (1,252).

*Superintendent*—Carl F. Becker, rep., 3,323 (1,136); C. W. Bean, dem., 2,187.

*Superintendent (to fill vacancy)*—Carl F. Becker, rep., 93; C. W. Bean, dem., 180 (87).

*Coroner*—M. H. Leuhsen, rep., 2,532; L. A. Zearley, dem., 2,782 (250).

*Supervisors*—George W. Ash, rep., 2,275; C. E. Witt, dem., 3,040 (765); E. W. Kregel, rep., 2,387; Fred Groth, dem., 2,979 (592).

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1914

*U. S. Senator*—A. B. Cummins, rep., 2,388 (226); Maurice Connolly, dem., 2,162; Otis L. Spurgeon, ind., 853.

*Governor*—George W. Clarke, rep., 2,535; John T. Hamilton, dem., 2,616 (81).

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 2,618 (122); G. A. Meyer, dem., 2,496.

*Judges (non-partisan)*—A. N. Hobson, 1,032; William J. Springer, 1,024.

*Representatives*—William Becker, rep., 2,706 (258); Chas. E. Scholz., dem., 2,448.

*Auditor*—John Adam, rep., 3,564 (1,876); P. A. Phelan, dem., 1,688.

*Treasurer*—C. J. Graf, rep., 3,396 (1,525); C. J. Rulon, dem., 1,871.

*Clerk*—W. L. Eichendorf, rep., 2,136; Martin G. Hagensick, dem., 3,083 (947).

*Sheriff*—J. P. Hurley, rep., 1,842; E. Bergemeyer, dem., 3,531 (1,689).

*Recorder*—John Foster, rep., 2,389; Vina Katschkowsky, dem., 2,901 (512).

*Attorney*—E. L. Spaulding, rep., 2,289; A. J. Palas, dem., 2,933 (644).

*Attorney (to fill vacancy)*—E. L. Spaulding, rep., 2,154; A. J. Palas, dem., 2,715 (561).

*Coroner*—W. J. Beerman, rep., 2,897 (662); Albert J. Pappen, dem., 2,235.

*Coroner (to fill vacancy)*—W. J. Beerman, rep., 2,711 (549); Albert J. Pappen, dem., 2,162.

*Supervisors*—Chas. Meder, rep., 2,797 (438); J. P. Mayer, dem., 2,359; George Pixler, rep., 2,506 (7); Chas. H. Huebner, dem., 2,499.

*Supervisor (to fill vacancy)*—E. W. Kregel, rep., 2,585 (71); L. D. Moser, dem., 2,514.

#### PRIMARY ELECTION TABLES, JUNE, 1908

*U. S. Senator*—W. B. Allison, rep., 694; A. B. Cummins, rep., 838 (144); C. R. Porter, dem., 1,005.

*Governor*—B. F. Carroll, rep., 627 (82); W. Garst, rep., 545; J. J. Hamilton, rep., 226; F. E. White, dem., 1,008.



*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 1,216; A. J. Anders, dem., 494 (96); M. B. Geiser, dem., 398.

*Senator*—B. W. Newberry, rep., 1,235; R. Quigley, dem., 909.

*Representative*—W. Williams, rep., 1,201; G. H. Schulte, dem., 937.

*Auditor*—C. J. Cords, rep., 889 (429); C. H. Williamson, rep., 460; T. L. Harvey, dem., 440; D. F. Willmes, dem., 618 (178).

*Treasurer*—J. J. Brich, rep., 452; C. F. Meier, rep., 897 (445); J. W. Forward, dem., 971.

*Clerk*—O. G. Embertson, rep., 780 (194); J. A. Kramer, rep., 586; M. B. Bishop, dem., 661 (255); O. C. Friend, dem., 406.

*Sheriff*—G. Losch, rep., 782 (205); J. H. Schmidt, rep., 577; M. Dittmer, dem., 702 (306); P. J. Ryan, dem., 396.

*Recorder*—J. E. Webb, rep., 1,337; J. W. McLaughlin, dem., 1,011.

*Attorney*—G. H. Fletcher, rep., 1,276; C. E. Scholz, dem., 1,017.

*Superintendent*—J. N. Dahm, rep., 615; D. E. Livingood, rep., 805 (190); T. R. Roberts, dem., 989.

*Surveyor*—Ole Nelson, rep., 25; J. Zearley, dem., 5.

*Coroner*—W. J. Beerman, rep., 1,254; L. A. Zearley, dem., 954.

*Supervisor*—H. A. Mallory, rep., 1,249; C. E. Witt, dem., 40.

*Supervisor*—F. J. Corlett, rep., 717 (65); A. S. Houg, rep., 652; C. E. Witt, dem., 924.

#### PRIMARY ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1908

*U. S. Senator*—A. B. Cummins, rep., 1,540 (893); J. F. Lacey, rep., 647.

#### JUNE, 1910

*Governor*—Warren Garst, rep., 738 (136); B. F. Carroll, rep., 602; Stephen H. Bashor, dem., 107; Edwin G. Moon, dem., 230; Claud R. Porter, dem., 669 (439).

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 1,147; D. D. Murphy, dem., 1,154.

*Representative*—L. L. Renshaw, rep., 1,133; Frank Gilbert, dem., 1,080.

*Auditor*—Knud L. Knudson, rep., 1,166; D. F. Willmes, dem., 1,151.

*Treasurer*—Chris F. Meier, rep., 1,195; H. E. W. Kaiser, dem., 1,101.

*Clerk*—D. C. Hale, rep., 1,125; Max B. Bishop, dem., 1,161.

*Sheriff*—Doug Brown, rep., 772 (332); George Losch, rep., 470; D. L. Batton, dem., 424; E. Bergemeyer, dem., 460 (36); J. K. Molumby, dem., 351.

*Recorder*—John Foster, rep., 1,122; J. W. McLaughlin, dem., 1,158.

*Attorney*—Rep. scattering, 60; Chas. E. Scholz, dem., 1,163.

*Superintendent*—Carl F. Becker, rep., 1,113; Thos. R. Roberts, dem., 1,131.

*Surveyor*—Rep. scattering, 10; dem. scattering, 16.

*Coroner*—W. J. Beerman, rep., 1,116; L. A. Zearley, dem., 1,063.

*Supervisor*—F. J. Corlett, rep., 427; L. S. Fisher, rep., 797 (370); Fred Groth, dem., 1,082.

*Supervisor*—Henry Whitford, rep., 1,090; A. B. Albrecht., dem., 1,066.

#### PRIMARY ELECTION, JUNE, 1912

*U. S. Senator*—W. S. Kenyon, rep., 775 (378); L. Young, rep., 397; D. W. Hamilton, dem., 816.

*Governor*—George W. Clark, rep., 485; P. G. Holden, rep., 516 (31); A. V. Proudfoot, rep., 151; E. G. Dunn, dem., 281; John T. Hamilton, dem., 482 (201).

*Congress*—H. L. Adams, rep., 265; G. N. Haugen, rep., 882 (617); Sigurst Regue, dem., 298; G. A. Meyer, dem., 478 (180).

*Senator*—L. S. Fisher, rep., 1,032; Robert Quigley, dem., 805.

*Representative*—F. C. Gilmore, rep., 1,036; Chas. E. Scholz., dem., 806.

*Auditor*—W. L. Korss, rep., 1,066; D. F. Willmes, dem., 841.

*Treasurer*—G. J. Graf, rep., 1,072; J. A. Maiers, dem., 816.

*Clerk*—D. C. Hale, rep., 1,049; Max B. Bishop, dem., 841.

*Sheriff*—Frank Wood, rep., 1,042; E. Bergemeyer, dem., 836.

*Recorder*—John Foster, rep., 1,043; J. W. McLaughlin, dem., 834.

*Attorney*—D. W. Maier, rep., 1,042; G. H. Schulte, dem., 841.

*Superintendent*—Carl F. Becker, rep., 998; C. W. Bean, dem., 813.

*Coroner*—M. H. Luehsen, rep., 1,038; L. A. Zearley, dem., 805.

*Supervisor*—George W. Ash, rep., 1,035; C. E. Witt, dem., 813.

*Supervisor*—E. W. Kregel, rep., 1,028; Fred Groth, dem., 818.

#### PRIMARY ELECTION, JUNE, 1914

*U. S. Senator*—A. B. Cummins, rep., 658 (380); A. C. Savage, rep., 278; Maurice Connolly, dem., 778 (319); E. T. Meredith, dem., 459.

*Governor*—George W. Clarke, rep., 688 (551); C. G. Lee, rep., 101; John W. Rowley, rep., 137; John T. Hamilton, dem., 875 (596); V. R. McGinnis, dem., 279.

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 879; G. A. Meyer, dem., 1,069.

*Representative*—Rep. scattering, 23; Chas. E. Scholz, dem., 1,061.

*Auditor*—John Adams, rep., 903; P. A. Phalen, dem., 1,024.

*Treasurer*—G. J. Graf, rep., 853; C. J. Rulon, dem., 1,070.

*Clerk*—Martin G. Hagensick, dem., 1,161; W. L. Eichendorf, rep., 862.

*Sheriff*—J. P. Hurley, rep., 729; E. Bergemeyer, dem., 1,156.

*Recorder*—Fred Susie, rep., 424; John Foster, rep., 477 (53); Vina Katschkowsky, dem., 636 (96); J. J. Finnegan, dem., 540.

*Attorney*—E. Spaulding, rep., 862; G. H. Schulte, dem., 1,148.

*Coroner*—Rep. scattering, 24; Albert J. Pappin, dem., 1,066.

*Supervisor*—Chas. Meder, rep., 853; Henry Koehn, dem., 446; J. P. Meyer, dem., 479 (33); L. D. Zahrndt, dem., 257.

*Supervisor*—Rep. scattering, 46; Chas. Huebner, dem., 1,043.

## PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY, APRIL, 1916

*President*—Republican: A. B. Cummins, 466; C. E. Hughes, 2; Theodore Roosevelt, 24. Democrat: Woodrow Wilson, 436; W. J. Bryan, 6; Henry Ford, 2; C. Clark, 2.

*Vice-president*—Republican: Elmer J. Burkett, 127; W. G. Webster, 309 (182). Democratic: E. M. Major, 414.

*National Committeemen*—Republican: John T. Adams, 289 (126); John Olson, 163. Democratic: E. G. Dunn, 179; W. W. Marsh, 260 (81).

## PRIMARY ELECTION, JUNE, 1916

*Electors at Large*—Republican: B. Murphy, 1,308; Ralph Pringle, 1,264. Democratic: Joseph Beh, 1,217; E. P. Farr, 1,096.

*Governor*—Republican: George Cosson, 247; W. L. Harding, 560 (209); Carl F. Kuehnle, 331; Joseph H. Allen, 335. Democratic: E. T. Meredith, 1,301.

*Congress*—G. N. Haugen, rep., 1,428; Carl Evans, dem., 1,259.

*Senator*—B. W. Newberry, rep., 1,411; Robert Quigley, dem., 1,300.

*Representative*—William Becker, rep., 1,346; dem. scattering, 19.

*Auditor*—A. H. Andreae, rep., 1,376; Edwin G. Pebler, dem., 456; Fred C. Seemann, dem., 892 (436).

*Treasurer*—G. J. Graf, rep., 1,422; E. E. Beers, dem., 1,208.

*Clerk*—Rep. scattering, 10; M. G. Hagensick, dem., 1,378.

*Sheriff*—John G. Reidel, rep., 756 (69); F. A. Robinson, rep., 687; D. L. Barton, dem., 440; E. Bergemeyer, dem., 565 (125); E. Bergman, dem., 362; Otto Engelhardt, dem., 162.

*Recorder*—Rep. scattering, 13; Vina Katschkowsky, dem., 1,304.

*Attorney*—W. W. Davidson, rep., 1,391; A. J. Palas, dem., 1,334.

*Coroner*—W. J. Beerman, rep., 1,385; dem. scattering, 23.

*Supervisor*—E. W. Kregel, rep., 1,382; dem. scattering, 25; Chas. Meder, rep., 1,389; dem scattering, 12.

*Suffrage Amendment*—For, 1,136; against, 2,123 (987).

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LIST OF MEMBERS OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CLAYTON COUNTY  
FROM 1861 TO 1916

The first meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held at the Court House at Elkader, Jan. 7, 1861, and the following members were elected:

D. W. Chase, Lodomillo  
Philip Hunter, Millville

G. S. Peck, Cox Creek  
Ebenezer Wood, Jefferson

The next year the following names were added:

Jas. Newberry, Lodomillo  
W. W. Gilmore, Millville

H. M. Jones, Cox Creek  
Geo. Falkenhainer, Jefferson



1863

Willis Drummond, Mendon  
B. F. Schroeder, Garnavillo  
John Paddleford, Cass  
L. F. Carrier, Highland  
J. W. Bowman, Mallory

Wm. S. Scott, Monona  
John Petres, Cox Creek  
Daniel Dougherty, Giard  
Henry White, Sperry  
P. M. Lown, Marion

Elias Hall, Elk

1864

Lodomillo, D. W. Chase  
Read, L. R. Gilbert  
Wagner, Ezra Monlux  
Cox Creek, G. L. Gifford  
Jefferson, Jas. Schroeder

Millville, P. C. Parke  
Grand Meadow, P. G. Bailey  
Boardman, R. C. Place  
Buena Vista, R. Menth  
Volga, J. Venus

Farmersburg, Thos. D. White

1865

Mallory, Philip Hansel  
Monona, P. P. Olmstead  
Elk, Elias Hall  
Mendon, M. O'Brien  
Highland, O. R. Paige

Marion, J. C. Rounds  
Garnavillo, B. F. Schroeder  
Sperry, Olliver Sanford  
Giard, Jas. Tapper  
Cass, O. H. Sherwood

Clayton, Frank Larrabee

1866

Monona, Elijah Boley  
Grand Meadow, P. G. Bailey  
Cass, L. F. Carrier  
Buena Vista, B. Chanvet

Lodomillo, D. W. Chase  
Volga, P. Costigan  
Read, L. R. Gilbert  
Cox Creek, C. Wentzell

Wagner, Ezra Monlux

1867

Cass, Gilbert Cooley  
Elk, Philip Fishel  
Mallory, J. Gehen  
Highland, John Keeling  
Mendon, M. O'Brien  
Monona, P. P. Olmstead

Clayton, S. L. Peck  
Marion, J. C. Rounds  
Giard, James Tapper  
Buena Vista, L. E. Tucker  
Sperry, Henry White  
Garnavillo, G. W. Beach

1868

Boardman, R. C. Place  
Farmersburg, C. F. Hall  
Lodomillo, Richard Edmonds  
Millville, Wm. Blake  
Jefferson, Jas. Schroeder

Read, Michael Uriell  
Grand Meadow, H. S. Humphrey  
Volga, John Garber  
Wagner, R. L. Knight  
Cox Creek, Charles Wentzell

1869

Garnavillo, G. W. Beach  
Mallory, J. H. Bowman  
Highland, Michael Callaghan  
Elk, Elijah Gates  
Giard, L. R. Gilbert

Sperry, A. T. Lawrence  
Monona, Luther Nichols  
Mendon, Amos Pearsall  
Clayton, S. L. Peck  
Marion, J. C. Rounds

Cass, H. B. Taylor

1870

Millville, William Blake	Farmersburg, C. F. Hall
Volga, Michael Eberhard	Buena Vista, C. L. Hoffman
Wagner, G. A. Gooding	Grand Meadow, H. S. Humphrey
Jefferson, C. P. Goodrich	Lodomillo, Jas. Newberry

Cox Creek, Fred Peick

- 1871—O. W. Crary, P. P. Olmstead, Michael Uriell.  
 1872—P. P. Olmstead, Michael Uriell and Gilbert Cooley.  
 1873—Michael Uriell, Gilbert Cooley and P. P. Olmstead.  
 1874—Gilbert Cooley, P. P. Olmstead and Michael Uriell.  
 1875—P. P. Olmstead, Michael Uriell and William Thoma.  
 1876—Michael Uriell, William Thoma and Isaac Otis. William Thoma died in this year and P. P. Olmstead was appointed by the county clerk, auditor and recorder to fill the vacancy.  
 1877—P. P. Olmstead, Isaac Otis and Andrew Eberhard.  
 1878—Isaac Otis, Andrew Eberhard and P. P. Olmstead.  
 1879—Andrew Eberhard, P. P. Olmstead and G. H. Scofield.  
 1880—P. P. Olmstead, G. H. Scofield and Helmuth Brandt.  
 1881—G. H. Scofield, Helmuth Brandt and A. F. Nichols.  
 1882—Helmuth Brandt, A. F. Nichols and G. H. Scofield.  
 1883—F. Schoulte, A. F. Nichols, G. H. Schofield.  
 1884—F. Schoulte, James McKinley, G. H. Schofield.  
 1885—F. Schoulte, James McKinley, John Welch.  
 1886—F. Schoulte, James McKinley, John Welch.  
 1887—F. Schoulte, James McKinley, John Welch.  
 1888—F. Schoulte, James McKinley, John Luther.  
 1889—John W. Welch, James McKinley, John Luther.  
 1890—John W. Welch, James Rogers, John Luther.  
 1891—John W. Welch, James Rogers, Joseph Andres.  
 1892—Charles Mentzel, James Rogers, Joseph Andres.  
 1893—Charles Mentzel, James Rogers, Joseph Andres.  
 1894—Charles Mentzel, James Rogers, William Monlux.  
 1895—George H. Schofield, James Rogers, William Monlux.  
 1896—George H. Schofield, J. F. W. Kaiser, William Monlux.  
 1897—George Schofield, J. F. Kaiser, William Monlux.  
 1898—H. G. Jenkins, J. F. W. Kaiser, William Monlux.  
 1899—H. G. Jenkins, Henry Meder, William Monlux.  
 1900—H. G. Jenkins, Henry K. Meder, John Splies.  
 1901—H. G. Jenkins, Henry Meder, John H. Splies.  
 1902—H. G. Jenkins, Henry Meder, John Splies.  
 1903—H. G. Jenkins, Henry Meder, S. H. F. Schoulte.  
 1904—A. S. Houg, Henry Meder, S. H. F. Schoulte.  
 1905—A. S. Houg, L. S. Fisher, S. H. F. Schoulte.  
 1906—A. S. Houg, L. S. Fisher, S. H. F. Schoulte.  
 1907—A. S. Houg, L. S. Fisher, H. A. Mallory.  
 1908—A. S. Houg, L. S. Fisher, H. A. Mallory.  
 1909—A. S. Houg, L. S. Fisher, A. B. Albrecht.  
 1910—C. E. Witt, L. S. Fisher, A. B. Albrecht.  
 1911—C. E. Witt, Fred Groth, A. B. Albrecht.  
 1912—C. E. Witt, Fred Groth, A. B. Albrecht.

- 1913—C. E. Witt, Fred Groth, A. B. Albrecht.  
 1914—C. E. Witt, Fred Groth, A. B. Albrecht.  
 1915—C. E. Witt, Ed. Kregel, A. B. Albrecht.  
 1916—George Pixler, E. W. Kregel, Charles Meder.

# LIST OF PLATTED TOWNS OF CLAYTON COUNTY WITH DATE AND NAMES OF FIRST OWNERS

- Bismarck (extinct), December 18, 1875, Johnston Campbell.  
 Buena Vista, October 31, 1848, William Stevens.  
 Clayton, May 2, 1850, Timothy Davis et al.  
 Clayton Center, June 27, 1857, Frederick Hartmann.  
 East Elkport (Garber), July 7, 1873, John Garber.  
 Edgewood (Yankee Settlement), February 27, 1856, John Gibson.  
 Elkader, June 22, 1846, John Thompson et al.  
 Elkport, June 24, 1853, Frederick Hartge.  
 Farmersburg (Windsor), October 8, 1856, John C. Russell.  
 Garber (East Elkport), July 7, 1873, John Garber.  
 Giard, May 25, 1871, Daniel F. Bickel.  
 Garnavillo (Jacksonville), April 14, 1844, County Commissioners.  
 Graham (Jefferson), March 25, 1852, P. C. Bolsinger, E. C. Jeffries.  
 Gunder, April 5, 1899, John Halgorson.  
 Guttenberg, August 5, 1848, Western Settlement Society.  
 Hardin, March 1, 1854, Jos. Collins, L. B. Hodges.  
 Jacksonville (Garnavillo), April 14, 1844, County Commissioners.  
 Jefferson (Graham), March 25, 1852, Bolsinger, Jeffries.  
 Keeleroy, December 14, 1848, J. M. Powell, Orrin Keeler.  
 Littleport, May 21, 1860, Dennis Quigley.  
 Luana, January 7, 1868, William S. Scott.  
 Mederville (St. John), October 5, 1868, H. Meder, Louis Reuther.  
 Millville, July 3, 1856, Isaac H. Preston.  
 Monona, May 28, 1853, P. P. Olmstead et al.  
 Motor, August 5, 1875, J. O. Crosby.  
 McGregor, July 24, 1850, James and Duncan MacGregor.  
 National (Farmersburg), March 12, 1858, S. T. Woodard et al.  
 North McGregor, July 21, 1858, Thomas Osborne.  
 Osborne, November 15, 1879, Thomas Osborne.  
 Osterdock, July 20, 1877, J. H. and J. N. Bowman.  
 Prairie la Porte (Guttenberg), December 4, 1839, County Commissioners.  
 St. Johan (Mederville), October 5, 1868, H. Meder, L. Reuther.  
 St. Olaf, March 7, 1874, Thomas Thompson.  
 Springfield (extinct), February 16, 1869, John P. Reed.  
 Strawberry Point, December 16, 1854, Eleazer Gardner.  
 Turkey River, June 8, 1880, Peter Keinie.  
 Volga City, January 8, 1852, W. H. and A. L. Gould.  
 West McGregor, July 23, 1857, H. S. Granger et al.  
 Windsor (Farmersburg), October 8, 1856, John C. Russell.  
 Yankee Settlement (Edgewood), February 27, 1856, John Gibson.



Froelich, Beulah, Woods and some other post offices were never platted.

## CENSUS RETURNS

## FROM STATE AND NATIONAL CENSUS REPORT

Township	1915	1910	1900	1890
Boardman .....	624	636	775	938
Buena Vista.....	302	298	434	311
Cass .....	675	725	764	743
Clayton .....	557	570	763	848
Cox Creek .....	788	826	110	1046
Elk .....	906	968	1130	1189
Farmersburg .....	592	625	825	977
Garnavillo .....	440	464	894	1051
Giard .....	843	847	1117	1147
Grand Meadow.....	625	697	830	826
Highland .....	576	623	677	793
Jefferson .....	790	841	989	980
Lodomillo .....	863	887	1055	1305
Mallory .....	862	946	1156	1269
Marion .....	878	934	986	993
Mendon .....	986	970	1000	1195
Millville .....	798	800	881	936
Monona .....	724	960	1054	1015
Read .....	585	669	792	804
Sperry .....	592	621	763	1128
Volga .....	769	842	874	1288
Wagner .....	656	687	763	970
Total .....	15,431	16,436	19,632	21,752

Village	1915	1910	1900	1890
Clayton .....	141	145	....	....
Edgewood .....	313	297	340	....
Elkader .....	1215	1181	1321	745
Elkport .....	212	210	326	....
Farmersburg .....	283	259	143	....
Garber (4).....	126	131	....	....
Garnavillo (1).....	368	342	....	....
Guttenberg .....	1873	1873	1620	1160
Littleport (1).....	205	166	....	....
Luana .....	166	....	....	....
McGregor .....	1240	1259	1498	1160
Monona .....	965	792	674	460
North Buena Vista (1).....	164	162	....	....
North McGregor.....	573	588	616	509
Osterdock (3).....	97	97	....	....
St. Olaf .....	145	170	124	....
Strawberry Point.....	1158	1052	1012	947

Volga City.....	456	416	444	....
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total .....	9700	9140	8118	4981
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total.....	25131	25576	27750	26733

(1) Incorporated in 1907; (3) Incorporated in 1904; (4) Incorporated as East Elkport in 1904; name changed to Garber in 1907.















